

Sustainability Policy Autumn 2019

Context

Sustainable education is a way of thinking about how we organise our lives and work, so that we don't destroy our most precious resource, the planet.

From over-fishing to global warming, our way of life is placing an increasing burden on the planet, which cannot be sustained. Things which were once taken for granted such as a secure supply of energy or a stable climate do not look so permanent now.

If our prosperity is tied to the health of the planet, then no one's well-being is secure unless the environment is protected. If we cannot prosper in a world that suffers from poverty, inequality, war and poor health, then our future is intimately bound up in the future of other people and places.

This policy is our whole school's commitment to our environmental mission and demonstrates our whole school commitment to being sustainable.

Aims

At Rhodes Avenue Primary School we strive to help our pupils learn about the world and that what they do to care for the earth and its inhabitants (people and animals) matters.

Rhodes Avenue Primary School has a caring ethos. It cares about the energy and water it consumes, the waste it produces, the food it serves, the traffic it attracts and the difficulties faced by people living in its community and in other parts of the world. We value the environment, both natural and that shaped by humanity, as the centre of life and a source of wonder and inspiration. On the basis of these values, we accept our responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment for future generations and aim to:

Every pupil can participate in making Rhodes Avenue Primary an eco-friendly and sustainable community.

- develop children's awareness, understanding and respect for the environments they live in and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, national and global level.
- enable children to be positive citizens in society
- Pupils can learn about and decide on the priorities for our school.
- All pupils, staff and visitors to our school sense and follow our Eco-Code which is fundamental to our school ethos.
- monitor, measure and reduce the environmental impact of the following:
 - Transport (parents and staff)
 - Water use
 - Waste (reduce, reuse, recycle)
 - Energy (gas and electric)
 - Procurement (use fair-trade, recycled paper, ecologically friendly cleaning products)

The National Curriculum

Sustainability has clear links with the National Curriculum, e.g. Geography, Science as well as PSHE and Citizenship.

The National Framework

A sustainable school has an integrated approach, the 'Three C's': Curriculum, Campus and Community.

Curriculum

Rhodes Avenue Primary School will explore sustainable development through its teaching provision and learning. The school estate and its local area will provide a resource for learning about sustainable development and an engaging context for teaching core subjects.

Campus

Rhodes Avenue Primary School will promote green travel arrangements that will contribute to the safety, fitness and alertness of pupils. The efficient management of the school buildings will result in lower energy and water bills. Better catering will improve pupils' diet, concentration and learning outcomes. And our strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle will result in less purchasing, less waste and reduced costs.

Community

In its engagement of local people and partners, Rhodes Avenue Primary School has much to give in terms of its facilities for the hosting of local services and in its influence on local affairs. As a Sustainable school, it will be an efficient, high-performing institution. By working with the local community on shared concerns like diet, obesity, litter, drugs, congestion and safety, Rhodes Avenue will demonstrate its commitment to its community.

The Eight Doorways provide the opportunities for Rhodes Avenue Primary School to initiate and extend sustainable school activity. They enable sustainability to be embedded into whole-school management practices and provide practical guidance to help the school operate in a more sustainable way. The eight doorways are:

- Food and Drink
- Energy and Water
- Travel and Traffic
- Purchasing and Waste
- Buildings and Grounds
- Inclusion and Participation
- Local well-being
- Global Dimension

Rhodes Avenue Primary School recognises the importance of the following doorways:

Food and Drink

Food and drink contributes not only to pupil well-being, but also to pupil learning and attainment as a whole. An unhealthy diet contributes to obesity and poor health, as well as poor concentration and performance. Processed foods with high levels of additives and preservatives, along with sweets and sugary drinks, are key factors contributing to this.

By contrast, a school that procures fresh, locally-sourced, ethically-produced, healthy foodstuffs can reverse these effects, whilst also protecting the environment and improving pupils understanding of food and where it comes from.

Energy and Water

Increased energy use creates greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Increased use of water is threatening the world's underground aquifers, contributing to water scarcity in many parts of the world. For this reason, energy and water conservation are two essential areas for schools to tackle. Eco-efficiency measures can help schools to reduce their need for energy and water, as well as reducing their environmental impact.

Our current framework:

- We switch off lights when they are not in use. The school has automatic light sensors throughout the school.
- We keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- Toilet water taps are fitted with sensors to ensure taps do not stay on.
- Photovoltaic panels are installed to the school.
- Energy Power perfecter installed to reduce the total Kw of energy supplied to the school
- Rain water harvest which recycles rain water to flush all toilets
- BMS system to monitor school heating, temperatures.

Travel and Traffic

The rising number of vehicles on the roads leads to congestion, increased road accidents and pollution. During term time cars on the school account for a measurable increase in pollutants such as carbon monoxide near schools. It also decreases pupils independent mobility, reduces their amount of daily exercise and detracts from their awareness of road safety.

Walking and cycling offers a sustainable alternative, providing a valuable boost to pupil fitness levels, increasing pupil concentration and instilling positive habits for life.

Our current framework:

- We will continue to take part in the 'Bikeability' scheme to encourage safe cycling.
- We will encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.

Purchasing and Waste

Our society generates an enormous amount of waste, the majority of which is just thrown away. Waste, and the culture that encourages it, can be tackled through sustainable consumption and a philosophy of 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. As well as reducing costs, this approach can support markets for ethical goods and services.

Our current framework:

- Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- Use scrap paper
- Each class has a waste paper box to enable us to re-cycle our paper.
- Paper will be re-used within the classroom. Each class will have a tray of partially used paper that can be used again.
- Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.
- Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.
- Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it.
- Good condition uniform including football boots and trainers will be collected, washed and sold during the school jumble sale which is organised by the Rhodes Avenue Parent Association.
- We recycle a range of materials on a regular basis.
- Paper is collected in recycling bins in every class room and office area. This is collected on a regular basis by the site team and placed in the green paper recycling box on site.
- Wooden pallets are recycled and made in to play equipment for the pupils, e.g. muddy play areas.
- Cartridges from computer ink will be collected in a labelled bin.
- Textile recycling.
- Batteries are collected and sent for recycling twice per year.
- Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.
- Plastic-free from January 2020, including all events organised by Rhodes Avenue's Parent Association.

Buildings and Grounds

A sustainable school, including buildings and grounds, provides an excellent teaching and learning resource for staff and pupils. Developing our grounds will help pupils learn about the natural world and sustainable living, for example, through food growing and biodiversity conservation.

Sustainable design principles, sustainable technologies, sustainable interior furnishings and sustainable environmental management will provide a living working example of sustainable living.

Our current framework:

- Forest School Education is part of our school curriculum.
- Gardening waste will be put into the school compost bins.
- School habitats such as the Spinney including, hedgerows, tree areas etc. are used by the children to study wild animal habitats as well as learning key survival skills.

- Areas disturbed by activities, by accident, or by malicious damage will if possible be restored to its original condition.
- Vegetable garden.
- School chickens and eggs produced used for Breakfast Club.

Inclusion and Participation

Rhodes Avenue Primary School aspires to be a model of social inclusion, enabling all pupils to participate fully in school life while instilling a long-lasting respect for human rights, freedoms, cultures and creative expression. Inclusion and participation are important goals of sustainable development learning - seeking to replace national, cultural and individual divides with respect, care and understanding.

The ability of communities to live together peacefully depends on their capacity to value difference and diversity. We will promote community cohesion by providing an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that values everyone's participation and contribution, and challenges prejudice and injustice in all its forms and sources.

Local well-being

Rhodes Avenue Primary Schools will be a model of good corporate citizenship within the local area, enriching educational aims with activities that improve the environment and quality of life of local people.

Rhodes Avenue Primary Schools will act as a hub of learning and a catalyst for change in the local community, contributing to the environment and quality of life while strengthening key relationships.

By being involved in community projects that seek to improve the local area will give pupils a sense of empowerment and confidence that they can make a difference to their lives and communities. It also allows them to experience how decisions are made at first hand, and to develop applied skills that complement classroom study.

Our current framework:

- Our first and most important school rule is that we will respect one another.
- This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
- We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.
- School Council will be mindful and active in relation to sustainability within school.
- RAPSA will be mindful and active in ensuring sustainability within their community events.

Global Dimension

Sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation. The air we breathe, the food we eat and the clothes we wear link us to people, environments and economies all over the world. There is a global dimension to every aspect of our lives and communities.

Challenges like global poverty and climate change jeopardise our future prosperity, and it is increasingly important to develop young people's understanding of such significant issues to develop a generation of globally aware citizens.

Rhodes Avenue Primary School will develop a responsible, international outlook for all our pupils, based upon an appreciation of their interdependence with other societies and the environment.

Links with other Policies

- Foundation Subjects Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Procedures for policy monitoring and dissemination

This policy statement will be reviewed in Autumn 2020 following a whole-school focus within 2019-2020. All members of staff and governors will receive a copy of this policy. Copies are available to parents on request.

Persons responsible: Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher
Curriculum Committee