Environmental Sustainability Policy

Senior Leader responsible	Nigel Sinclair
Date approved by LGB	22/05/2025
Next review date	Summer 2028

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Neatherd High School is committed to educating pupils about environmental sustainability and preparing them for a world impacted by climate change. The policy aims to promote eco-friendly attitudes in pupils and staff, to ensure that Neatherd is as sustainable as possible.

The policy covers many aspects of sustainability, including waste and recycling, littering, transport, energy, healthy lifestyles, the curriculum, food origins and sustainable procurement of goods.

Neatherd's accompanying Climate Action Plan will set out the specific targets and measures that will show how the Environmental Sustainability Policy is being implemented to reduce our impact on the environment, as well as potentially saving the school money and improving staff wellbeing.

Statement of Intent

This Policy shows Neatherd is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

We encourage both pupils and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment.

Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance including, but not limited to the DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems.'

Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust Board and the Local Governing Board is responsible for:

- Reviewing the Environmental Sustainability Policy
- A commitment to making progress towards carbon neutrality
- Support the school to reduce waste by increasing recycling and reducing landfill
- Introducing, monitoring and reviewing progress towards carbon neutrality
- Bringing an awareness of sustainability to the forefront of our education, not only in our curriculum but around school, in all activities and our general ethos
- Consider environmental impacts where any new buildings or capital refurbishments are being planned

The Sustainability Lead is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents and the community, and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy
- Promoting awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities
- Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practising policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment
- Preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience
- Actively seeking sustainable procurement opportunities
- Ensuring where possible that equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic
- Encouraging parents to promote an eco-friendly lifestyle at home, encourage children to walk or cycle to school, when possible and reinforce the learning that the school implements regarding the environment

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy
- Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach pupils about environmental concerns
- Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use
- Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of making progress towards carbon neutrality including recycling and disposing of food waste sustainably
- Ensuring that the Premises Manager understands their responsibility to making progress towards carbon neutrality
- Identifying, with the Premises Manager, ways to reduce energy wastage such as installing motion sensor lights
- Identifying, with the Premises Manager, ways to reduce waste by increasing re use, recycling and reduce landfill waste
- Support pupils to cycle to school

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use
- Ensuring paper goes into the recycling baskets in each room and organising pupils either from form or other lessons to empty the baskets into the appropriate big red bins

The Premises Manager is responsible for:

- Recording data such as energy and waste energy use and reporting any waste to the Headteacher
- Encouraging and supporting staff and pupils to ensure classrooms are using energy sustainably
- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice
- Maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school premises
- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow
- Coordinating waste disposal from the premises and ensuring that all waste is disposed of correctly
- Consider, with the Headteacher, the development of the school grounds to develop biodiversity, outdoor learning opportunities and support our progress to carbon neutrality
- Sourcing grants to support the implementation of sustainable processes

Pupils are responsible for:

- Represent the views of the wider pupil community, this may take the form of an eco-forum and/or Environmental Ambassadors
- Taking an active approach to helping pupils understand a variety of issues such as climate change and waste
- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running
- Be responsible for keeping our classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy.
- Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don’t come in paper or plastic packaging
- Use the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste

Waste and recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- Using emails as much as possible, to reduce paper waste.
- Using emails, the school’s website, social media and parent messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.

- Composting food waste, from DT4 & DT5.Compost used on the school garden.
- Ensuring selective waste collection and organic waste treatment for composting.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper tray and re-using it whenever possible.
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes, where possible.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets.
- Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.
- Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled.
- There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.
- We will display posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.
- Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- Teachers will encourage pupils to partake in litter picking around the school grounds as well as litter picking in the local area.
- Litter picking volunteers will be in groups no larger than 10 and will be always accompanied by a member of staff.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

- WEEE is regulated to reduce the number of devices and equipment that is incinerated or sent to landfill sites. To reduce the school's carbon footprint and minimise the impact on global warming, the necessary steps are taken to ensure WEEE is disposed of properly.
- The headteacher, in collaboration with technicians and the Premises Manager, will use a suitable partner, to dispose of WEEE safely.
- Before disposal, IT Services will ensure data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

Littering

Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly. Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in a bin.
- Using the appropriate recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting the Premises Manager and eco ambassadors with the cleanliness of the premises.

The Premises Manager takes overall responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

The Premises Manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

The school appoints eco-ambassadors consisting of staff members and pupils, who are responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school
- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listening and responding to questions from the school council.
- Waste disposal – bins are provided throughout the school, with additional bins provided in eating areas, to ensure sufficient availability for waste disposal. T
- The school raises awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through assemblies, S&E lessons, form time activities and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters.

Transport

- Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.
- The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school, will be promoted throughout the school.
- We will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to Trust training days.
- We will produce informative material, such as posters and leaflets, regarding the impact of the carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles and public transport on the environment, which will be displayed and distributed around the school.
- We will have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles.
- We recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, we will organise road safety lessons in school.

School grounds

- The Premises Manager will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, e.g. introducing motion sensitive lights
- Energy saving lightbulbs will be used throughout the school when lighting is being replaced.
- When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts and energy saving solutions.

Healthy living

- We will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment.
- We will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that everyone has on the environment.
- We will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle, for example, walking instead of driving.
- We will ensure pupils learn about the physical and wellbeing benefits of exercise in Physical Education lessons.

Sustainable farming

- We will teach pupils where food comes from as part of S&E and geography lessons.
- School meals will be designed with due regard to government regulations, seasonal produce and locally sourced food, where possible.
- Pupils will be taught about the importance of sustainable farming in geography lessons.
- Excess crops/produce from the garden/allotment will be used in the canteen and/or Food Technology

Energy

We aim to decarbonise, so will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather.
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors and interactive white boards, when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the Premises Manager.
- Displaying information around the school and in classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly, when possible.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use, then environment and financial costs.
- We will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight, for example, in the school foyer.

Reducing carbon emissions

We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Explore and implement renewable technologies when possible, so that Neatherd can export surplus energy to the national grid.
- Implementing a rewards system for pupils and/or staff who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

Sustainable procurement of goods

- We will devote time to ensuring product procurement is done in the most sustainable way.
- Our purchasing team will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced from within the UK or locally where possible.
- We will obtain contracts with suppliers who have strong eco-credentials.

Curriculum

- We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within different areas of our curriculum.
- Neatherd to become a member of the Green Schools project, an initiative that encourages pupils to engage with environment and sustainable development issues. It also highlights and supports the ever-growing eco anxiety that many young people feel.