



Sustainability Policy

Heathlands School



Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board.

The policy was agreed by the Full Governing Board Meeting on 1.7.25

Next Review due July 2027.

Co-Headteachers Signature:		Date: 1.7.25
Governor Signature:		Date: 1.7.25

1. Aims

The effective following of this policy will ensure:

Students are educated about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably.

Heathlands School is as sustainable as possible.

All stakeholders are aware of the Sustainability Action Plan and take action to ensure Heathlands reduces its impact on the environment (at local, national and global scales).

Heathlands recognises our collective responsibility to ensure students have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so they can apply this to their lives and adopt and increasingly eco-friendly lifestyle.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act (1990)
- Control of Pollution Act (1974)
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013
- Sustainability and Climate Change: A strategy for education and children's services (December 2023)

All schools are required to have a Climate Action Plan in place by September 2025.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Holding Senior Leaders to account for environmental sustainability;
- Receiving reports on the school's energy usage;
- Receiving reports on the use of sustainable resources, for examples, biodegradable (or reusable) cups/bottles for water.

School Leaders are responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy;
- Ensuring the teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach students about environmental concerns;
- Ensuring staff and students understand the importance of energy conservation;
- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure.
- Ensuring that catering staff are aware of the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably (although overall responsibility lies with their employer)
- Ensuring that all staff and students understand their responsibility to maintain the school grounds.

The Sustainability Lead Teacher is responsible for:

- Auditing the whole-school curriculum to identify opportunities to promote the value of environmental sustainability;
- Including and engaging staff, governors, students, parents/carers and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations;
- Sharing good practice with students, parents/carers and the community; and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy;
- Promoting awareness of climate change through organising cross-curricular activities;

Teaching and Learning Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring any, and all, opportunities for promoting the need for sustainability are utilised in their lessons/classroom;
- Promoting the recycling of waste materials in school;
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably (e.g. ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use and air con units are used correctly);

The Site Team are responsible for:

- Ensuring energy efficient equipment is used wherever possible (with a plan to replace anything that requires it)
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to School Leaders.

Students are responsible for:

- Applying their knowledge of sustainability both in school and at home;
- Using energy sustainably (ie not wasting paper);
- Helping to keep our classrooms, school and the grounds clean and tidy;
- Trying to reduce the amount of plastic, non-recyclable packaging in lunch boxes and snacks.
- Using the correct bins so that we can recycle and compost as much of our waste as possible.

As part of the Action Plan Heathlands will re-establish an Eco-Council consisting of students from across the school led by student leaders and the Sustainability Lead. They will meet at least once a half term to discuss ideas and campaigns outlined in the Action Plan.

Notes from the meetings will be recorded and ideas fed-back to the rest of the school and the wider community via the newsletter.

The Eco-Council are responsible for:

- Auditing student views on sustainability;
- Carrying out agreed campaigns to increase sustainability in school;
- Raising awareness through assemblies;
- Collecting evidence to apply for Eco Schools Award, aiming to achieve the Green Flag Award within 3 years.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Promoting eco-friendly ways/ideas at home;
- Recycling at home and ensuring their children understand how to recycle;
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements regarding sustainability.

4. Sustainable Practices at Heathlands**Waste and Recycling**

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of the paper wherever possible;
- Using emails rather than written notes/letters as much as possible (both internal and external);
- Ensuring waste is sorted and collected separately for recycling;
- Using scrap paper for rough work;
- Only printing the correct number of copies needed;
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes;
- Only laminating frequently used documents to protect them from damage and prolonging their use;
- Recycling old IT and other electrical equipment (WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) correctly;
- Encouraging all staff and students to use reusable water bottles;
- Clearly labelling bins for recycling, food waste and general waste;
- Displaying posters around school to encourage sustainability.

Littering

Heathlands understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly.

Individuals are responsible for:

- Putting all litter in the correct bin;
- Using resources thoughtfully;
- Reusing resources where possible;
- Helping to ensure the school and grounds are kept clean.

Transport

Heathlands understands that due to the distances students and staff travel to attend the school, walking, cycling or using public transport is not always an option. However, we will encourage:

- Staff to car share whenever possible (e.g. when travelling to external training days);
- Parents to consider offering lifts to students that live nearby or on route;
- Taxi drivers to switch off their engines while waiting for student pick-ups to reduce carbon emissions.

Energy Conservation

We will reduce our energy usage by:

- Auditing the amount of energy used each term;

- Senior Leaders will review the energy reports and discuss measures to reduce wastage and consumption and report to Governors;
- Using energy saving lightbulbs and more energy-efficient lighting throughout the school when being replaced;
- Opening windows and /or asking students to remove jumpers/ blazers etc before using air conditioning units;
- Ensuring that all windows and doors are closed before switching on air conditioning units;
- Switching lights off when the room is not in use;
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather where possible;
- Turning off equipment (computers, interactive boards etc) when not in use;
- Adjusting heating timings and temperatures throughout the year;
- Displaying instructions/information around the school to remind staff and students to save energy;
- Displaying our Energy Certificate in reception;

Sustainable procurement of goods

- We will attempt to ensure procurement is done in the most sustainable way;
- The finance team will endeavour to ensure that all purchases are sourced from the UK where possible to reduce the impact on the environment.

5. Curriculum

The Sustainability Lead will audit the curriculum to ensure all students are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding of biodiversity and sustainability.

The sustainability action plan will be created in September 25 and will be completed throughout the year.