

GUARDIAN ANGELS' RCPS SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Policy approved by: Governors	Date: January 2025
Last reviewed: N/A	
Next review: January 2027	

Mission Statement

We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to love, learn and grow.

Aims of this policy

At Guardian Angels', we aim to become a sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives.

We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into our curriculum and instilling a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment.

We aim to lead the communities by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

- To consider and implement strategies for the school to reduce waste by sharing resources between our schools.
- To review the implementation of the school's climate change action plans

Executive Headteacher

- To implement the policy with clearly allocated responsibilities.
- To ensure staff have the knowledge needed to teach pupils about environmental concerns.
- To review the climate change action plans with the Sustainability lead

Sustainability lead

- To receive carbon literacy and co-ordinate delivery of this training to all staff where applicable
- Identify appropriate areas of the school grounds to use as an environmental classroom
- Raise awareness through environmental awareness days with the whole school communities
- Lead a whole-school sustainability audit to identify current and future opportunities for change

Schools Business Manager

- To carry out procurement practices by considering usage, waste and supply chains as part of the assessment and validation criteria used when purchasing goods and services
- Identify funding opportunities for sustainable development and lead bids for funding
- Communicate waste reduction practices in school to encourage sustainable and cost-effective behaviour eg limiting printing, turning off lights

Subject leaders

- Carry out a sustainability audit for their subject, identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world, sustainable practices and the circular economy
- Identify ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects eg reducing printing
- Incorporate Forest School and outdoor education into their curriculum area
- Apply the new Science model curriculum with the emphasis on nature

Class teachers

- Promote environmental sustainability and ensure their classrooms are using energy sustainably.

Site Manager

- Keep the school sites clean and safe for effective outdoor learning
- Maintain verges around the school pitches as wild grassland areas to encourage biodiversity
- Conduct energy and water usage audits at the end of every term

Eco Pupil Groups

- Monitor, promote and review environmental issues in our schools.

Children

- To apply their knowledge to become change makers eg travel actively to school.
- Use energy sustainably
- Keep grounds tidy
- Eat healthily
- Recycle.

Parents

- Promote an eco-friendly lifestyle and reinforce at home.

Curriculum and Learning

Our curriculum will provide our children with the knowledge, skills and understanding that our environmental responsibility can have on the world around us such as showing care for other living things.

We are members of the Eco Schools programme – an international initiative that encourages pupil engagement with environmental issues.

Examples include:

Science:

Children will be taught about how animal extinction can impact ecosystems.

Children will be taught about how deforestation and loss of habitat can impact species.

Geography:

Children will engage in discussions about windmills and other sustainable energy sources, outlining the advantages and disadvantages.

Children will be given case studies to analyse, such as looking into the effectiveness of sea defences.

English Literature:

Children will be given nature poetry to read, assessing how the environment is depicted and the implications of these depictions.

Food and Catering

- We aim to reduce waste in our school meals by offering a pre order menu selection.
- Meat reduction will be supported through out vegan and vegetarian options.
- Our menu choices will reflect healthy lifestyles.
- School meals will be designed with due regard to seasonal produce and locally sourced food.
- Children will be taught about sustainable fishing and farming.

Waste and Recycling

To develop a 'waste-wise' ethic within the whole school communities we will; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

- Label bins for recycling.
- Minimise rubbish and recycling our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis.
- Ensure that children take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner (composting.)
- Reducing and eventually eliminating the use of single-use plastics in the school.
- Reduce paper waste by writing on both sides of paper where possible. Using emails or digital tools eg website.

- Only printing when essential.
- Children to share worksheets where possible.
- Children to use reusable water bottles.
- Eco Groups to engage in litter picking projects.
- Donate pre-loved uniform to our uniform swap shops.

Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency - calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, educate staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the schools.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include children in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promote a 'switch off campaign' for electrical equipment, lighting, heating and cooling.
- Sign up to the Let's Go Zero Campaign and create an action plan to reduce our carbon impact using the 'Count Your Carbon' tool.
- Monitor energy consumption termly and compare to similar schools locally.
- Investigate the best ways to conserve energy.

Buildings and Grounds / Infrastructure

- When refurbishments are being planned, we will consider any environmental impact.
- We will undertake a building audit to assess potential changes we can make to ensure we are running as sustainably as possible, making changes where needed. We will look for financial bursary support to make these updates.
- We will ensure timers are on our heating systems.

Transport and Travel

- We will promote active and sustainable travel through charity WOW Living streets charity and (GA) encourage our families to access school using our 'School Street'.
- The benefits of daily exercise which will be promoted throughout the school.
- Staff are encouraged to car share when possible.
- We will provide safe storage for bikes and scooters.
- We will support children's understanding and confidence through programmes including bikeability and road safety to ensure risks are educated.
- EYFS will have access to balance bikes.
- We will consider travelling actively where possible or using local travel via TFGM / Bee Network.

Procurement

Our school wishes to reduce its ecological footprint and to educate children on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Where possible, our school will:

- Purchase 100% recycled paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Set printers to double sided print as default.
- Limit the amount of advertising materials sent home to children.
- Source recycled products for book orders which are cost effective.
- Source resources and products from local and ethical businesses
- Use electronic devices or online resources where possible instead of paper.
- Monitor photocopying usage with individual access codes.
- Obtain contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying particular regard to pricing, quality and their returns policy.
- Aim to reduce consumption of uniform with our 'Swap Shed' and school resources eg book management.

Water

We will encourage the school community to reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; educate the community on ways to reduce water usage indoors and outdoors.

- We will promote a 'water-wise turn off' policy.
- Children will engage in units of work relating to water conservation.
- To assign children to monitor water usage and report wastage.
- Plant trees and plants that require minimal watering.
- Use a water butt to water our gardens.
- Taps – use a controlled flow.
- Toilets – to have a half flush setting.
- We will conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

Nature

We continue to improve our outdoor natural environments, by planting native trees that are conducive to our environment; improve our vegetable garden by planting more plants and involving our school community in the development and maintenance of the garden; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.

- Our Eco Teams will prioritise this in their topic allocation and plan for the future development of our school grounds.
- We will utilise our garden area to its full extent.
- We will involve community members in maintenance of school grounds and our allotment.

- We will grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs to be utilised in cooking, educating our pupils on 'farm to fork'.