



## **HACKBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Environmental and Energy Saving Policy (Sustainability)**

Hackbridge Primary School is committed to educating its pupils about the importance of respecting the environment and to promoting sustainable development. The school recognises that it has a duty to prepare its children with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution by improving the local area. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst all our staff and pupils.

The most effective measures for conserving valuable energy resources in school do not cost any money to implement and can be termed "good housekeeping". However, consistent effort from the whole school community is needed to ensure that good practice is adopted and maintained.

It is important that all members of the school community are aware of the link between energy use and financial cost and efficiency. An environmentally friendly and sustainable school is one that:

- Conserves energy and water
- Avoids the use of pollutants and potential pollutants
- Takes steps to minimise the produce of waste
- Enhances and protects plants and wildlife
- Meets local needs whilst respecting people and their environment through involvement.

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide a more energy-efficient school, conserve resources and reduce energy costs and our carbon footprint.

#### **CURRICULUM**

##### **We will**

- Ensure that sustainability is covered consistently throughout the school in our lessons
- Use the school grounds, including the garden and pond areas, as sources of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.
- Encourage pupils to participate in all energy saving activities and appoint energy monitors in each class
- Give pupils opportunities to develop their school environment and explore the world around them through weekly Eco and Gardening Club.
- Encourage pupils to be curious about the world around them and explore ways of developing a more eco-friendly approach by taking part in RSPB Birdwatch, Waste Week and other events.
- Continue to raise the schools' profile about how we are caring for the environment by participating in the Green Flag award.
- Share our eco projects with others through the school website, eco display board and termly newsletters.

## **HEATING**

- Site Manager will ensure the heating time switch(es) is set to allow the heating to come on only when the buildings are occupied. The heating should be set to go off approximately half an hour before school closes.
- The heating plant to be serviced regularly, at 6 monthly intervals, to ensure optimum working order and this will be monitored by the Site Manager.
- Electric heaters should only be used as a last resort. Any heating problems in school should be reported immediately to the Site Manager or School Business Manager.
- Wherever possible do not place desks or other obstructions in front of radiators as this reduces their effectiveness.
- Site Manager will monitor room temperatures/thermostats on regular basis (suggested optimum classroom temp. 18 C).
- Ensure outside doors and classroom doors are closed when the heating is on. Involve the children as energy monitors i.e. to close classroom door when children leave, close outside door behind them etc.
- Site Manager will check all draught seals and arrange for replacements where necessary.

## **LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

- Where possible, energy efficient bulbs will be used.
- Switch off all lights before leaving the classroom or any other room i.e. during break/lunchtimes and at the end of the day.
- Teachers should consider making children responsible for turning off lights, i.e. the last to leave the room.
- Only turn on a light if it is really necessary – make use of daylight wherever possible
- Switch off all electrical equipment when not in use
- Do not switch on computer equipment if it is not being used that day
- User to switch computer monitors off completely at the end of the day
- Class teachers to switch off Clever Touch screens at the end of the school day and essentially at weekends.
- The Site Manager will check that outside lights are not left on during the daytime unless required for safety/security

## **WATER**

- We will not leave taps running.
- Report dripping taps immediately to the Site Manager or School Business Manager immediately
- Report any water fountain problems as above.
- All water fountains will be monitored regularly by the Site Manager. They will be switched off at the mains during holiday periods and should the temperature fall to freezing. They will be on at all other times.
- We will help pupils and the wider community understand that conserving water is vital to our future.

## **ENERGY MONITORING**

- Meter readings are taken monthly by Site Manager and monitored and compared with invoices received by the School Business Manager, any discrepancies followed up
- School is part of the energy efficiency purchasing scheme run by Zenergi in order to obtain the best tariffs for gas and electricity

## **LITTER AND WASTE**

We will

- Photocopy and print only when necessary and use both sides of the paper wherever possible.
- Use the CleverTouch screens instead of printing worksheets where possible
- Laminate frequently used documents
- Recycle paper, glass, plastics, composting
- Ensure all classes have scrap paper trays
- Use scrap paper instead of a clean sheet of paper where possible
- Ensure the grounds are kept free of litter by ensuring pupils and staff use the rubbish and recycling bins provided
- Compost any food waste as appropriate. Pupils use fruit compost bins at playtimes.
- Use the compost converter to produce our own compost.

## **TRANSPORT**

We will

- Continue to develop and utilise our School Travel Plan
- Raise awareness about the impact of transport to the environment and to people's health
- Maintain adequate and safe facilities for pupils and staff cycling and walking to school
- Promote walking to school
- Implement an effective awareness programme on road safety for our pupils

## **OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT**

We will

- Ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by the pupils as well as provision to undertake exercise and that the Site Manager ensures this facility is maintained to a high standard
- Use the garden to grow fruit and vegetables and harvest for use in the school kitchen and to sell at the school fair
- Remain aware that the school grounds provide our visitors with the first impression of our school and that this will also influence the attitude and behaviour of our pupils.

## **PERFORMANCE**

The implementation of these guidelines will only be effective if the whole school community are vigilant.

The Site Manager will monitor the implementation of this policy through his ongoing role to ensure that procedures laid down are reflected in practice.

The Governor's Location Committee will ensure that this policy is reviewed at least every four years.

## **DATE:**

Last reviewed: January 2016

This review: May 2019