

**Colyton Grammar School
SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL POLICY**

Rationale

“Schools are there to give children the knowledge and skills they need to become active members of society. Many children are rightly worried about climate change, global poverty and the impact of our lifestyles on our environment. Schools can demonstrate ways of living that are models of good practice for children and their communities. They can build sustainable development into the learning experience of every child to encourage innovation and improvement.”

Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, October 2006

The school is committed to promoting sustainability, in the broadest sense, through a range of school policies and programmes. This policy focuses on these issues, recognising that sustainability should be addressed both in the immediate learning experience of students and through the development, management and operation of the school buildings and site.

Aims

1. To minimise the use of non-renewable and environmentally-damaging resources
2. To maximise recycling
3. To increase awareness of environmental issues amongst students and staff
4. To create learning opportunities for students to increase their understanding of sustainable development.
5. To bring about behaviour change in young people and those connected to them so that good habits learned in schools are followed through into homes and communities.
6. To maximise school sustainability
7. To ensure compliance with the required national and local standards for sustainability across a range of issues such as building development, energy etc.
8. To provide a framework to enable the delivery of this policy.

Practice

1. The school will work within the Ecoschools Framework for Sustainable Schools, seeking to develop initiatives and improve practice in each of the identified 9 key areas i.e. Energy, water, biodiversity, school grounds, healthy living, transport, litter, waste and global citizenship.
2. The school has published an Eco Code as a minimum sustainability standard for the school community. The Code addresses the following key issues:
 - recycling (e.g. paper, cans, food waste and other items)
 - sustainable use of heating and lighting
 - turning off ICT equipment when not in use
 - reducing waste
 - minimising use of water
 - sharing journeys or using public transport (for both staff and students)
 - promoting environmental awareness.

The code is displayed throughout the school.

3. The School Restaurant will take account of sustainability issues through a range of approaches including:
 - Using local suppliers rather than national chains wherever possible
 - The choice of suppliers who provide produce under Soil Association, Farm-Assured, Fair Trade and similar schemes which promote high standards of socially responsible food production

- Minimising waste and composting waste wherever possible
 - Reducing packaging, or using recyclable packaging wherever possible
4. The design and management of school building projects will reflect sound environmental practice, including issues such as:
 - the design of mechanical and electrical installations
 - implementing grey water and/or rainwater harvesting schemes where appropriate
 - sustainable approaches to building where possible
 - the inclusion of sustainability as a criteria when making choices between refurbishment, demolition and construction etc
 5. Consumption of energy and water is closely monitored to minimise waste and/or leakage. The school will actively explore and promote the use of micro-generation technologies to minimise dependence on imported electricity and gas, and so reduce the school's carbon-footprint.
 6. The school will seek to purchase sustainable products whenever possible, seeking items that are recyclable, contain a proportion of recycled materials, contain a minimum of toxic substances either in the manufacture or final article and that are locally produced as appropriate.
 7. The school will seek to provide an attractive and natural landscape on the school site, including wildlife habitats as appropriate. Ground maintenance staff will reduce the use of chemicals, fertilisers and herbicides whenever possible.
 8. Environmental awareness is included in the annual programme of assemblies and PSHE. It is also covered as part of the curriculum in a range of subjects including Science, Geography and General Studies.
 9. Students are encouraged to take an active role in implementing the sustainable schools agenda through the Colyton Green Society. This group consists of at least one governor, the Business Manager, Site Manager, at least one representative of the teaching staff and student representatives from each year group. The Colyton Green Society produces an annual Action Plan.
 10. The Support Staff Performance Management Scheme encourages the inclusion of a "green" objective as part of each year's development targets.
 11. The school will actively seek to promote awareness of sustainability issues both within the school and in the wider community through newsletters, the school website and other forms of communication including meetings and special events as appropriate.

Conclusion

The school is firmly committed to being a sustainable school in the widest possible sense.

The following policies also contribute to this aim: Best Value Policy , Grounds and Buildings Policy, Citizenship Policy Statement and Healthy Eating Policy.

This policy will be reviewed on at least a three yearly basis.