

St Helen and St Katharine School

Environmental Policy 2020

Statement

St Helen and St Katharine recognises the seriousness of the environmental challenges that confront the planet and the importance of each individual and organisation playing their part in addressing these. We also recognise that, as a school, as an employer and as a consumer of resources, we have a specific and useful part to play.

Our ambition is to bring about a continual improvement in our environmental performance by managing activity, buildings and grounds in an environmentally responsible way and to continue to develop our community's understanding of its environmental impact and how we might respond to that intelligently and sustainably.

The School commits itself to:

Communicate its environmental policy and strategy to pupils, staff, parents and other stakeholders such as suppliers. This will include their own environmental responsibilities as well as those of the School as a whole. The strategy will be developed through time via the Environmental Working Group and opportunities for improved environmental practice will be communicated to the wider school community

Ensure that its Environmental Policy is put into practice:

- Establish an Environmental Working Group that will be responsible for adopting implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Environmental Policy.
- Ensure that on the Environmental Working Group there is appropriate representation across the school – such as SMT, teachers, administrative support staff, catering, maintenance, finance and students.
- Ensure that the Environmental Working Group (i) sets measurable targets, (ii) reviews and monitors progress and (iii) updates the Environmental Policy at regular intervals.
- The actions stimulated by the activity of this working group will be reported on to the Governing Body annually within the Trinity Term's papers. These should be submitted via the Headmistress' report
- Work with partners where appropriate to achieve environmental projects.
- The student members of the Environmental Working Group will ensure that there is handover as new members join to ensure that succession planning avoids a drop of momentum

Key areas:

Awareness Raising

- We will keep under review the PD / General Studies curriculum to ensure that topics relating to the environment, climate change and biodiversity etc are developed and kept current across the age range. We will also continue to create opportunities for students to develop their awareness of the positive steps that they can take both at School and at home through initiatives, speakers, information displays etc. Overall curriculum
- The Environmental Working Group will identify new research and possible speakers to ensure that the School community is working to the best guidance in matters relating to environmental good practice.

- **Energy consumption, particularly from fossil fuels**
The School is already on a green tariff; work will continue to reduce the School's carbon footprint where possible. We will monitor and understand the importance of different areas of school energy use, looking to make improvements in the school's energy efficiency and reduce the energy demands of the School's buildings while acknowledging that some areas of the campus are Edwardian and more problematic with regard to energy usage.
- Encourage the use of sustainable transport by staff and students and, where this is not possible, encourage the offsetting of carbon emissions using effective schemes. The Joint Bus Service (with Abingdon School) is a significant positive in the School's environmental strategy and use of it will be encouraged.
- The School will set itself a target date for carbon neutrality after a scoping exercise

Waste

Look to reduce the levels of waste produced (e.g. kitchen food waste, single use plastics). Where possible the School will reuse and recycle waste and encourage students to do the same. The School will purchase recycled and recyclable materials when appropriate. The School will ensure that any new appliances purchased are energy efficient and environmentally sound. The School will seek to increase the amount of waste material that is recycled. Work has already been undertaken to reduce the amount of unnecessary printing in School and this will continue.

Sustainable refurbishment and development

Principles of environmental sustainability are integrated into the refurbishment and development of the School site in order to minimise negative environmental impacts and to enhance the local environment. Any new developments will seek to ensure efficient heating, water and air conditioning systems, insulation and energy efficient windows and doors. Environmental Consideration will inform decisions regarding the sourcing of building materials.

Pollution

We will seek to avoid or limit the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes within the school grounds and review products used with environmental impact in mind. We will continue to ensure that disposal of such items is undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Protecting and encouraging biodiversity

We will protect biodiversity in areas across the campus, particularly in those not designated for school activities.

Policy introduced:..... Lent 2020

Next review due: Lent 2022

Person responsible for review:Headmistress

Audience:.....Staff/Parents/Pupils/Governors