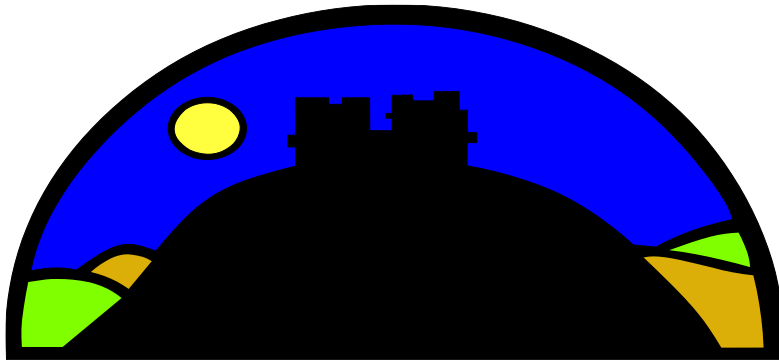


Bankfields Primary School



Environmental Policy

Approved by: Headteacher

Date: January 2025

Last reviewed on: January 2025

Next review due by: January 2027

Statement of Intent

We as a school are committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle.

We encourage both pupils, staff and the community to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment. Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental issues, promote an ecofriendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

The school has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the world's resources wisely. Pupils are expected to demonstrate an active interest in and concern for all-natural environments and we hope to encourage each pupil to recognise their role in protecting the future of the planet.

Who will write and review this policy?

Our school environmental policy has been created by the environmental Leader using information from Eco-schools and government guidance such as sustainability in schools. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Environmental Leader.

Introduction

Environmental education helps to develop, responsible attitudes and inspires young people to act in order to live more sustainably. It can also develop their sense of identity and pride in their local environment and community.

The aims of the Environmental Policy are:

- To develop a cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning about environmental issues.
- To encourage the children, staff, governors, parents and the residents in the local community to develop understanding of how to look after 'Our Planet' to make a better environment for future generations.
- Ensure that we monitor our usage of gas, water and electricity and measure our total carbon footprint, discussing ways of making efficiencies and reducing CO2 emissions.
- Raise awareness of recycling, sustainability, litter pollution, energy usage and other environmental issues through assemblies and organising workshops and guest speakers.
- Recycle as much of our waste as we can, staff and children to recycle through the school where appropriate e.g. recycling print cartridges, paper, clothing and batteries.
- Ensure that we pursue where practicable a purchasing policy of best value and environmentally friendly products
- Ensure that we educate the children through (Science, PSHE, Literacy, and environmental projects/workshops).
- Provide curricular and extra- curricular activities to teach children the importance of sustainability and methods of doing this.
- The school will continue to develop and create school grounds that are a source of teaching and learning opportunities for the children.

- Share good practice with pupils, parents and the community, and encourage them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy.
- School habitats are used by children to study flora and fauna and the diversity within the habitats.
- The school will continue to develop areas of biodiversity to encourage wildlife within the school grounds.

Teaching and Learning

The teaching and learning of Environmental issues where appropriate will be taught through Curriculum subjects such as Science, Geography or PSHRE (KS1 and 2) or 'Understanding of the World' or 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development' for EYFS.

Personal, Social, Health, Relationships and Economic education (PSHRE), citizenship, geography and science all offer excellent opportunities for exploring environmental issues.

Children will experience a wide range of learning opportunities, practical hands-on activities such as litter picking, gardening/sustainability, recycling projects, renewable energy workshops or whole class discussions/debates to develop their understanding of environmental issues.

Class Teachers will also seek opportunities to link environmental work into different aspects of the curriculum, supported by our Environmental Lead Teacher. Examples of this could include opportunities for discussion and debate on climate change, ocean pollution, recycling and renewable energy. In maths lessons, the children could study statistics and data related to energy usage.

As a school, we also discuss current environmental issues both on a national and global scale through our whole school and class assemblies. We use resources such as Picture News to discuss current issues affecting our world to give the children the opportunity to fully understand and discuss these issues and think about changes that we can make to help our planet.

EYFS:

In the EYFS children will do this through developing understanding about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They will talk about features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. All children will have the opportunity to talk about and make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes.

Environmental Issues Planning

Environmental planning will be linked to the National Curriculum document for Science and PSHRE wherever possible and the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Medium term planning for science when appropriate will also include environmental issues.

Planning for Waste week/Energy Initiatives (such as Switch Off Fortnight) will come from links to energy/environment websites. E.g. Eco schools and The Pod and will occur at different times throughout the year. The children will participate in these initiatives, supported by their Eco Warriors.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Bankfields Primary School, our children are able to access a range of extra curricular opportunities both during and after the school day. Some of these clubs relate directly to the Environment such as our Gardening Club which teaches children the importance of sustainability and how to achieve this.

Eco-Warrior meetings also take place every half term to discuss environmental issues and how as a team, we can make a difference to our school and local environment.

Assessment

Photographs will evidence children's progress, experiences and understanding of environmental issues during school activities/projects/workshops/assemblies etc. Many of these can be seen in our class 'Floor Books'.

Our Environmental Lead Teacher and Eco-Warriors will review the School Action Plan regularly to ensure we are working towards environmental and sustainable targets.

Roles and Responsibilities**Environmental Lead Teacher with the support of our Eco Warriors:**

- Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.
- Identifying, with the site manager and School Business Manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this whenever possible.
- Take the lead in policy development, and the adaptation and implementation of school environmental or Eco-Committee issues/projects.
- To develop a new sustainability policy.
- To apply for any possible grants to develop the school grounds, for example Grey to Green funding.
- To inform staff about the steps needed to achieve and progress towards retaining a Green Flag Award.
- To continue to work closely with staff, local community, governors and the Eco- Committee to meet the targets set out on the school action plan.

Websites to reference:

Eco-schools www.eco-schools.org.uk

The Pod <http://jointhepod.org/home>