

Eltham Hill School



Eltham Hill
SCHOOL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Governors Committee: Teaching & Innovation

Date Adopted/Reviewed: September 2015

Date of next review: September 2016

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Eltham Hill School

Sustainable development is essential to ensure quality of life without damaging the planet for the future. This requires a balance between economic prosperity, social equity and care for the environment. Eltham Hill is acutely aware of its responsibility to promote and practice sustainable development and this approach is reflected in our School Improvement Plan.

This Policy is based on the National Framework¹ which guides schools towards the government's aim that all schools be sustainable by 2020. The National Framework recognises three parts: a commitment to care, an integrated approach and sustainability themes (doorways) to establish sustainable practices.

The Policy, in recognition of the integrated approach, reflects that a sustainable school needs to include sustainability in its **curriculum**, and this needs to be linked to social and institutional practices in school and the **community**.

Our Objectives

1. To encourage our students to care for themselves (their health and well-being), for each other and for the environment.
2. To challenge our students to use their individual talents so that they can contribute to the economic prosperity of their local community, the country and the global environment.
3. To promote and practise the principles of social equity both in school and through our links with local, national and global communities.
4. To empower our students to lead sustainable lives through educating them in sustainable behaviours.
5. To share responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practicing policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.
6. To comply with relevant environmental legislation and any relevant codes of practice for the benefit of the environment.

Awareness and Publicity

The School will:

- 1) Promote awareness of environmental issues and its environmental policy amongst staff, students and the organisations and individuals with whom it is associated.
 - 2) Provide appropriate mechanisms for staff and students to contribute to the development of its environmental programme.
 - 3) Ensure that it has access to up to date information on environmental legislation and best practice in order to make informed decisions.
 - 4) Communicate our Eco School Programme Action Plan and sustainable projects via our website
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The Eight Doorways to sustainable development:

1. Inclusion and Participation

Our students are encouraged to participate in decision making through the Student Council. We encourage them to feel confident about finding solutions and to enjoy making positive contributions to society. Issues such as discrimination, equality of opportunity, citizenship, cultural and spiritual awareness and care for the environment are consistent themes for all students to engage in.

2. Food and Drink

We acknowledge that better catering helps to improve student and staff health, concentration and learning outcomes. In line with our Health Eating Policy, all food and drink offered to students, staff and visitors are nutritionally healthy and where possible, produced locally. Parents are aware of this policy and actively support it.

3. Energy and Water

We are conscious of the need to conserve energy and water. We continually monitor energy use and develop ways of reducing consumption. Our school has achieved BREEM excellence.

4. Travel and Traffic

The School's Travel Plan advises, encourages and assists staff and students to use the most sustainable mode of transport available to them when travelling to and from school. We encourage staff and students to car share, use a bike or walk to school at least once per week. Work with suppliers: where transport is a major factor, in our purchasing of their services to encourage and actively promote improvement in their own environmental performances. Greener travel contributes towards safety, fitness and alertness of our students and also reduces emission levels and congestion.

5. Purchasing and Waste

EH will buy less, but better in order to minimize waste in the environment. Where costs are consistent with value for money, we will consider and purchase goods and services which are manufactured/remanufactured, used and disposed of in an environmentally friendlier manner. We will purchase Fair Trade products whenever possible. We will consider, where appropriate, whole life costs and environmental impacts when assessing tenders for goods and services. The school reuses and recycles wherever possible and has a policy of only printing when necessary. We will reuse or dispose of old equipment in an ecologically sound way. We will use products without harmful substances in them, such as solvent free glue.

The school is committed to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. The school will reduce the generation of solid waste, atmospheric emissions and effluent and ensure that waste is managed in a manner consistent with legal requirements and best practice. The Local Authority recycles paper from collections of waste paper from almost all areas of the school. Signage and recycling bins in and around the school inform staff and students what items can go in the recycling bins. This includes plastics, paper, tins, cardboard, glass (please contact the Premises Manager for the safe disposal of glass.) We will compost vegetable and fruit peelings and garden waste in our biodiversity

garden compost bins. All other food waste goes in the green general waste bins in accordance with LA guidelines.

6. Buildings and Grounds

Our new school is built with sustainability at the forefront of its design. We have achieved BREEM excellence

7. Local Well-Being

Through engaging with parents, local businesses, schools and community groups and fundraising, we promote well-being in the community and raise awareness of sustainability issues. Students learn about well-being in the classroom and are encouraged to support well-being in the community through PHSE lessons and fundraising events.

8. Global Dimension

As an International school, we participate in many activities linking us to the wider world