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**Sustainability Policy**

*West Heath Primary will continuously strive to ensure that everyone in our school is treated with respect and dignity. Each person in our school will be given fair and equal opportunity to develop their full potential with positive regard to gender, ethnicity, cultural and religious background, sexuality or disability. West Heath Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Please also refer to the No Platform, Visiting Speaker Policy*

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| --- | --- |
| Owner | Headteacher |
| Date of review | September 2025 |

**West Heath Primary School Sustainability Policy**

Sustainable education is a way of thinking about how we organise our lives and work, so that we don’t destroy our most precious resource, the planet.

From over-fishing to global warming, our way of life is placing an increasing burden on the planet, which cannot be sustained. Things which were once taken for granted such as a secure supply of energy or a stable climate do not look so permanent now.

If our prosperity is tied to the health of the planet, then no one’s well-being is secure unless the environment is protected. If we cannot prosper in a world that suffers from poverty, inequality, war, and poor health, then our future is intimately bound up in the future of other people and places.

**Aims**

At West Heath Primary School, we strive to help our pupils learn about the world and that what they do to care for the earth and its inhabitants’ matter.

West Heath Primary School has a values led ethos. It cares about the energy and water it consumes, the waste it produces, the food it serves, the traffic it attracts, and the difficulties faced by people living in its community and in other parts of the world. We value the environment, both natural and that shaped by humanity, as the centre of life and a source of wonder and inspiration. Based on these values, we accept our responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment for future generations and aim to:

* Ensure that all children can participate in making West Heath Primary an eco- friendly and sustainable community.
* Develop children’s awareness, understanding and respect for the environments they live in and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, national, and global level.
* Enable children to be positive citizens in society
* Educate children about the priorities for our school.
* Ensure that all pupils, staff, and visitors follow our school values which are fundamental to our school ethos.

We will monitor, measure, and reduce the environmental impact of the following:

* Transport (parents and staff)
* Water use
* Waste (reduce, reuse, recycle)
* Energy (gas and electric)
* Procurement (use fair-trade, recycled paper, ecologically friendly cleaning products)

**The National Curriculum**

Sustainability has clear links with the National Curriculum – Science, Geography, the Arts as well as PSHE and Citizenship. This also links closely to our school values and outdoor education.

**The National Framework**

A sustainable school has an integrated approach, the ‘Three C’s’: Curriculum, Campus, and Community.

***Curriculum***  
West Heath Primary School will explore sustainable development through its teaching provision and learning. The school site and its local area will provide a resource for learning about sustainable development and an engaging context for teaching core subjects.

***Campus***  
West Heath Primary School will promote green travel arrangements that will contribute to the safety, fitness, and alertness of pupils. The efficient management of the school buildings will result in lower energy and water bills. High quality catering will improve pupils' diet, concentration and learning outcomes. And our strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle will result in less purchasing, less waste and reduced costs.

***Community***  
In its engagement of local people and partners, West Heath Primary School has much to give in terms of its facilities for the hosting of local services and in its influence on local affairs. As a Sustainable school, it will be an efficient, high- performing institution. By working with the local community on shared concerns like diet, obesity, litter, drugs, congestion and safety, West Heath Primary School will demonstrate its commitment to its community.

The ‘Eight Doorways’ provide the opportunities for our school to initiate and extend sustainable school activity. They enable sustainability to be embedded into whole-school management practices and provide practical guidance to help the school operate in a more sustainable way. The eight doorways are:

* Food and Drink
* Energy and Water
* Travel and Traffic
* Purchasing and Waste
* Buildings and Grounds
* Inclusion and Participation
* Local well-being
* Global Dimension

West Heath Primary School recognises the importance of the following doorways:

**Food and Drink**

Food and drink contribute not only to pupil well-being, but also to pupil learning and attainment. An unhealthy diet contributes to obesity and poor health, as well as poor concentration and performance. Processed foods with high levels of additives and preservatives, along with sweets and sugary drinks, are key factors contributing to this.

By contrast, a school that procures fresh, locally sourced, ethically produced, healthy foodstuffs can reverse these effects, whilst also protecting the environment and improving pupils understanding of food and where it comes from.

**Energy and Water**

Increased energy use creates greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Increased use of water is threatening the world’s underground aquifers, contributing to water scarcity in many parts of the world. For this reason, energy and water conservation are two essential areas for schools to tackle. Eco-efficiency measures can help schools to reduce their need for energy and water, as well as reducing their environmental impact.

Our current framework:

* The school has automatic light sensors throughout the school.
* We keep outside doors closed in cold weather
* Toilet water taps are fitted with sensors to ensure taps do not stay on
* Solar panels are fitted to the school
* BMS systems to monitor school heating temperatures.

**Travel and Traffic**

The rising number of vehicles on the roads leads to congestion, increased road accidents and pollution. During term time cars on the school account for a measurable increase in pollutants such as carbon monoxide near schools. It also decreases pupils’ independent mobility, reduces their amount of daily exercise, and detracts from their awareness of road safety. Staff and visitors may park in the school carpark but the only access to site for vehicles is the school minibuses.

Walking and cycling offer a sustainable alternative, providing a valuable boost to pupil fitness levels, increasing pupil concentration, and instilling positive habits for life.

Our current framework:

* Pupils will be taught ‘Bikeability’
* We will encourage travel share for staff
* We have facilities for secure storage of bikes and scooter

**Purchasing and Waste**

Our society generates an enormous amount of waste, the majority of which is just thrown away. Waste, and the culture that encourages it, can be tackled through sustainable consumption and a philosophy of 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. As well as reducing costs, this approach can support markets for ethical goods and services.

Our current framework:

* Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible
* Use scrap paper
* Each classroom and office will have a recycle waste point
* Each class will have a tray to reuse paper
* Hessian boards will be used so that display backing paper is not necessary
* We will have a recycling shop for school uniforms, sports items, and other unwanted items
* Children are encouraged to treat resources and equipment with respect

**Buildings and Grounds**

A sustainable school, including buildings and grounds, provides an excellent teaching and learning resource for staff and pupils. Developing our grounds will help pupils learn about the natural world and sustainable living, for example, through food growing and biodiversity conservation.

Sustainable design principles, sustainable technologies, sustainable interior furnishings, and sustainable environmental management will provide a living working example of sustainable living.

Our current framework:

* Forest School and Outdoor education is part of our school curriculum
* Gardening waste will be composted
* School grounds are an environmental classroom including the forest school area, vegetable beds.

**Inclusion and Participation**

West Heath Primary School aspires to be a model of social inclusion, enabling all pupils to participate fully in school life while instilling a long-lasting respect for human rights, freedoms, cultures, and creative expression. Inclusion and participation are important goals of sustainable development learning.

The ability of communities to live together peacefully depends on their capacity to value difference and diversity. We will promote community cohesion by providing an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that values everyone’s participation and contribution, and challenges prejudice and injustice in all its forms and sources.

**Local well-being**

West Heath Primary School will be a model of good corporate citizenship within the local area, enriching educational aims with activities that improve the environment and quality of life of local people.

Our school aims to act as a hub of learning and a catalyst for change in the local community, contributing to the environment and quality of life while strengthening key relationships.

By being involved in community projects that seek to improve the local area will give pupils a sense of empowerment and confidence that they can make a difference to their lives and communities. It also allows them to experience how decisions are made at first hand, and to develop applied skills that complement classroom study.

**Global Dimension**

Sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation. The air we breathe, the food we eat and the clothes we wear link us to people, environments, and economies all over the world. There is a global dimension to every aspect of our lives and communities.

Challenges like global poverty and climate change jeopardise our future prosperity, and it is increasingly important to develop young people’s understanding of such significant issues to develop a generation of globally aware citizens.

West Heath Primary School will develop a responsible, international outlook for all our pupils, based upon an appreciation of their interdependence with other societies and the environment.

**Monitoring of this policy**

The policy statement will be reviewed Spring term 2025. Copies of this policy will be available to all members of the school community through our school website.