

Environmental Sustainability Policy



Approved by: Penny Harris (Director) Jane Cox (Director) **Date:** 4 November 2021

Last reviewed on: 30th April 2021

Next review due by: 3 November 2021

All policies are generated and reviewed with an awareness of equality and diversity in relation to pupils, staff and visitors. All policies are generated and reviewed placing safeguarding at the heart of all that we do.

1. Commitment and Policy Aims

The Directors of On Track are committed to minimising the environmental impact of the company's activities via continuous improvement in environmental performance. The Directors will seek to develop an ethos of environmental responsibility in all its staff and pupils as well as in the management of the schools. The Directors recognise that in pursuing On Track's educational objectives, there is opportunity to protect its immediate environment and by exercising proper control over its activities, On Track will promote the use of sustainable resources and discourage wasteful or damaging practices. Accordingly, it is our policy to:

- a) Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and take such additional environmental protection measures as it considers necessary.
- b) Promote awareness and understanding of environmental issues among all staff, pupils and the external community.
- c) Integrate environmental management practices into every level within the company.
- d) Manage and conserve energy and water efficiently within all premises.

- e) Reduce waste of natural resources; promote waste reduction and recycling thereby promoting sustainable development.
- f) Regulate all waste production and disposal and discourage litter, graffiti and noise pollution.
- g) Reduce and, where practicable, prevent pollution.
- h) Promote the use of less environmentally damaging transport options.
- i) Consider the environmental impact of any new development.
- j) Maintain premises in an environmentally sensitive way.
- k) Encourage 'bottom-up' initiatives to improve environmental performance.
- l) Ensure that this policy and all reports and reviews of environmental performance are communicated to all staff and pupils and are available to the public.

2. Fulfilling Policy Aims

- a) Ensure environmental education is regularly addressed within the curriculum
- b) Minimise the use of paper in our offices
- c) Use electronic filing wherever possible
- d) Minimise paper printing wherever possible
- e) Seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products
- f) Reuse and recycle where possible.
- g) Seek to buy more environmentally friendly and efficient products
- h) Seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible
- i) Seek to use renewable energy suppliers
- j) Switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use
- k) Adjust the heating with energy consumption in mind
- l) Seek to use energy efficient lighting

- m) Encourage staff and pupils not to leave taps running
- n) Make drinking water available to pupils and encourage its use
- o) Where possible, reduce the need to travel by promoting use of virtual meetings
- p) Make efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles
- q) Seek to purchase energy efficient vehicles
- r) Involve staff and pupils in the implementation of this policy for greater commitment and improved performance
- s) Encourage schools to participate in obtaining Eco School Status (see Annex 1 where appropriate)

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Annex 1 – Eco Schools Award



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1. Introduction

This school is committed to the promotion of good environmental practice, managing our impacts, preventing pollution and continuously improving our environmental performance. This policy outlines how this will be implemented in our school.

2. Definitions

Eco School Status is awarded to schools that demonstrate a commitment and practice to environmental sustainability. By 2022 the government want schools to be models of energy efficiency, renewable energy use and water management with a culture of sustainable development embedded into all areas of the school life. The Green Flag award is the highest award you can achieve through Eco Schools.

3. Areas of Responsibility

The Head Teachers in this school are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The Teacher with responsibility for Eco Schools in our school is Lavinia Meneguzzi.

4. Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- Provide pupils entering On Track Education Barnstaple with a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum that supports sustainability
- Provide all pupils with knowledge in order to live healthy lifestyles in a sustainable environment
- Encourage pupils to contribute to the wider community, to be environmentally aware and respect the local area and world they live in
- Provide an atmosphere of cooperation where pupils, parents and professionals can work in partnership towards a more sustainable future.

5. Travel Plan

- Any journeys undertaken must seek to minimise mileage and should be limited to a 20 mile radius except in extenuating circumstances.
- All journeys undertaken by vehicle must be authorised in advance to ensure that only essential journeys are made.

6. Energy Consumption

- Staff are encouraged to use less lighting in classrooms and to make good use of natural light. Where lights do not have a timing sensor attached staff and pupils are encouraged to switch lights off whenever possible to save energy and to reduce the environmental impact.

- Computers should be switched off when not in use.
- Staff and pupils should be vigilant and ensure that windows and doors are shut when leaving rooms when possible and where this does not contravene any other health and safety measures at any point in time (i.e. Covid 19 Risk Assessment control measures)
- Taps should be turned off when not in use. Water pressure should be maintained at any efficient level to avoid wastage.
- Kettles should only be filled with the required amount of water
- Staff and cleaning contractors will use eco-friendly detergents wherever possible

7. Environmental Awareness

- There will be an annual Eco-week in the school.
- Every opportunity to promote the sustainable schools and Eco Schools programmes will be utilised
- Environmental issues and enrichment supporting the programme will be published in the school newsletters.

8. Paper and Recycling

- Staff and pupils will be encouraged to limit the use of paper wherever possible
- Recycle boxes with the ECO logo will be placed in each classroom
- One sided waste paper should be placed in these bins and re-used when appropriate to do so
- Two sided paper should be placed in recycle bins and will be sent for recycling
- Confidential information will always be shredded and recycled wherever possible
- Parents will be contacted via email where this is possible. The school will promote this as a means of communication.

9. Purchasing

- All food purchased should be locally sourced wherever possible reducing travel pollution and supporting the local community
- The school will purchase recycled paper, paper towels and toilet rolls where possible

10. Litter and School Meals

- All staff are required to maintain a good working environment both inside and outside their classrooms. The classroom environment should always be litter free at the end of each teaching session in preparation for use by others.
- Pupils dropping litter will be encouraged to participate in restorative practices
- Pupils are encouraged to ensure their own desk or dining environment is left in a clean and litter free condition after break and lunch periods
- Pupils and staff should return all plates and ensure waste food is disposed of in the bins provided
- School meals will be served on a plate and the school will move towards reducing the number of wrappers and disposable containers