

Garton on the Wolds CE (VC) Primary School

Sustainable Development Policy

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.

Garton on the Wolds CE (VC) Primary School is aware of its responsibility to promote and practise sustainable development and this approach is reflected in our:

- ☐ ☐ Care and respect for ourselves, others and the environment.
- ☐ ☐ Co-operation between school, home and community.
- ☐ ☐ Consistency and fairness in our values and expectations.
- ☐ ☐ Challenge and support for all to reach their potential.
- ☐ ☐ Our focus on our place as global citizens
- ☐ ☐ Commitment to comply with relevant environmental legislation and codes of practice.

Our Objectives

To encourage our school community to care for themselves (their health and wellbeing), for each other and for the environment.

To challenge our school community to use their individual talents so that they can contribute to the economic prosperity of the local community, the country and the global environment.

To promote and practice the principles of social equality both in school and through our links with local, national and global communities.

To empower our school community to lead sustainable lives through educating them in sustainable behaviours.

To share responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practising policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.

To support action to create healthy environments free from pollution and contamination.

Methods

We will endeavour to address issues of global sustainability across all areas of school life and beyond. Focused work will also be in place. Clubs and out of hours activities will also be encouraged.

Inclusion and Participation

As part of our school commitment to the 'Every Child Matters' Agenda, all of our school community are encouraged to actively participate in decision making through an exciting curriculum delivery which emphasises skills and development through such bodies as the School Council and the Eco Committee. We encourage our children to feel confident about finding solutions and to enjoy making positive contributions to society. Issues such as discrimination, equality of opportunity, citizenship, cultural, moral, religious and spiritual awareness and to consider how we can care for the environment further are consistent themes for all of our pupils to engage in.

Food and Drink

In line with our School Food Policy, where possible food and drink offered to children, staff and visitors are nutritionally healthy and where possible, produced locally. Parents are aware of this policy and actively support it. Our school supports learning about healthy foods through curriculum opportunities and parent information sessions.

Energy and Water

We are conscious of the need to conserve energy and water. The Eco Committee and Business Manager works towards more efficient use of these resources. Both information for pupils, parents and staff is given on ways we can save on these resources. We continually monitor energy use and develop ways of reducing consumption.

Travel and Traffic

The School's Travel Plan promotes walking and cycling to school. Our children take part in Cycling Proficiency Lessons in Year 5 and 6 pupils to encourage safe riding. The school supports Walk to School Week and also gives pedestrian training for Y5 and Y6 along with Buswise information. All of this contributes towards traffic safety, fitness and alertness of our children and also reduces emission levels and congestion.

Purchasing and Waste

The school reuses and recycles wherever possible and has a policy of only printing when necessary and only using colour where necessary. Electrical equipment and lights are switched off when not in use and wherever possible, we reuse or dispose of old equipment in an ecologically sound way.

Buildings and Grounds

We are continually updating and developing our outside area in order to create a 'natural equilibrium'. We have a school garden and we are developing a sensory area. The school prides itself in maintaining a litter free environment.

Local well being

The school has a good relationship with its neighbours. Where possible goods and services are purchased locally. The school grounds are available for use for out of hours clubs and committees. The premises are used by community groups such as the Church and Village Parish Council. The school also holds events to which the local community are invited.

Global Dimension

As a school, we participate in many activities linking us to the wider world such as our global themes of Africa, India and Europe. We are investigating developing a link with a Kenya project to help fund the development of a school library and nursery school.

The school holds the Global Dimension Award.

We will continue to extend this ethos of sustainability throughout the school in our determination to move towards a healthier, safer, more inclusive and equitable society and to encourage our children to become ambassadors for sustainability in the wider community.

Policies Linking

Equal Opportunities

Eco-School

Inclusion

School Food Policy

Citizenship

Cycle Policy

Effective Teaching and Learning

Monitoring and Reviewing

When planning the introduction of new initiatives we will consider the viability, cost, maintenance, health and safety and the educative value.

This policy for sustainability forms part of the School Improvement Plan and should be revisited annually, Monitoring progress towards our objectives is the responsibility of all staff and should be an integral part of the School.

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