

5.3

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Mission Statement

The College believes that protection of the environment is an integral part of good institutional practice and that it has a duty to satisfy itself that all of its operations are conducted with proper regard for the environment. It is committed to maintaining and, wherever possible, improving the quality of this environment both for the people who live and work in the College and for the wider community now and in the future. The College seeks to make the most effective and efficient use of all resources, encouraging all members of the school community to develop an ecologically sound approach to their work. All pupils and staff should be encouraged to *reduce* their resource use, *reuse* resources where possible and *recycle* any outstanding materials where this option is available.

Overall Objectives

- Introduce an environmental management structure within the College.
- Reduce the environmental impact of the College by maximising the management of its material resources and environmental performance by aiming to reduce energy/water usage and carbon dioxide emissions by specific percentages over a given period.
- Review environmental management procedures on a regular basis.
- Achieve and, if possible, over-achieve the requirements of all relevant legislation.
- Conduct regular environmental site audits (for waste/recycling and energy/water usage).

Transport

- Utilise and encourage modes of transport, which minimise environmental impact.
- Create a Transport Policy which aims to reduce the number of cars used for individual pupils by promoting car-sharing and the use of other means of transport.
- Investigate Carbon offsetting schemes for the many school trips that take place.

Working with Contractors

- The College will work to ensure that its contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers also work towards high standards of environmental performance.

Waste/Recycling

- Reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of by implementing a waste minimisation/recycling programme.
- Aim to extend current recycling schemes (paper, plastic cups, CDs and PCs) to other materials such as ink cartridges, cardboard, tins and food waste.

Buildings/Grounds

- Appraise the life-time energy costs and savings of all new-buildings and refurbishments.
- Maintain an environmentally sound garden and grounds management policy.
- Develop policies relating to internal building pollutants.

Water/Energy Consumption

- Ensure that the water/energy efficiency of its buildings and equipment is maximised.
- Endeavour to procure energy from green, clean or renewable sources.
- Strive to allocate additional investment in energy efficient measures wherever there is a medium term payback (5-10 years).

Curriculum

- Identify and promote initiatives for inclusion of sustainability principles within the curriculum – a dedicated PSHE scheme could be established.

Purchasing

- Purchase, where feasible, sustainable products for use in the College's operations, i.e. recycled, or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources.
- Avoid the unnecessary use of environmentally damaging substances and processes

Communication/Training

- Publish details of environmental policy, activities and performance on the College's web-site and made available to staff, students and the public.
- Keep an up to date notice board detailing initiatives and achievements on the school site.
- Maintain a programme of environmental awareness targeting improvements in good energy housekeeping for pupils and staff, particularly those who are critical in the process of managing energy consumption.

Ideas for consideration

- Continue to implement the use of low energy lighting.
- Install thermostats or thermostatic radiators and keep the temperature as low as possible.
- Fit automatic timer switches to vending machines and automatic shut down on communal computers.
- Put aluminum foil behind any radiators fitted to an outside wall to stop heating escaping through the walls
- Ensure power saver facility on all appliances is enabled.
- Implement the widespread use of water saving devices.
- Be sparing in the use of conventional cleaning fluids and consider using eco-friendly cleaning products as and when effective alternatives become available.

- Reduce the amount of water flushed in toilets by reducing cistern capacity.
- Minimise washing temperatures.
- Buy products in bulk and refill re-useable containers where possible.
- Install wind generators and/or solar panels.
- Investigate feasibility of Combined Heat and Power with help of the Carbon Trust.
- Reduce heat loss from the swimming pool by using a pool cover.
- Collect rain water for use around the grounds – “rain harvesting.”
- Produce compost and mulch as a way of recycling vegetable waste etc.
- Reduce the amount of waste products that are disposed off by burning on the “Dump” etc.
- Consider parts of the site for tree planting and/or a vegetable patch/nature garden which could be used by staff and pupils both in free time and where applicable in the curriculum (e.g. Science, Geography, Art).
- Investigate applying for an Eco-Schools Award.

Individual best practice at work

- Ensure lights are switched off in empty rooms.
- If it gets too hot in the winter, don’t open a window; turnoff the radiator first.
- Don’t leave doors open between areas of different temperatures.
- Don’t switch on computers and printers until you need them.
- Ensure all appliances are switched off overnight and when not required.
- Switch off the light whenever you leave the room even for a short time. By switching off a typical fluorescent light for one hour in each working day, 30 kg of carbon dioxide emissions is saved annually.
- Try to use as much natural light as possible. Report dirty windows.
- Turn taps off properly and report dripping taps - a dripping tap can waste 10,000 litres (3,000 gallons) of water a year.
- Set the photocopier and printers to print double sided.
- Use the other side of used paper for printing out drafts or making notes.
- Implement the widespread use of re-cycled paper.
- Use recycling bins properly.

Whole School Programmes

- Appoint a re-cycling rep in each form/tutorial group responsible for co-ordinating their efforts in recycling paper.
- Set up a scheme whereby unwanted computer equipment and textbooks can be distributed to other schools.
- Donate old text books to less well-off schools especially in developing countries.
- Create a pond/wildlife garden somewhere on the school grounds which could be run in conjunction with the Biology department.
- Pupils to construct wind turbines etc.
- Create a committee of pupils to help implement these recommendations, where possible, and to research further ideas.