

Eco Policy



Policy developed by Miss Killian (Eco leader): May 2023

Policy approved by Governors: July 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Taylor".

Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr M Grogan".

Headteacher

Policy shared with staff and shared on the school website: July 2023

'Never settle for less than your best'

ECO POLICY

Our school motto

Never settle for less than your best.

Our Vision

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, each member of our community will flourish as resilient, respectful and adaptable individuals prepared for life's journey. Along the way we will encourage and inspire each other to continue growing as beacons of light in our own lives and the wider world.

Our Mission Statement

St. George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part.

Introduction

It is important for the St George's Central community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work, and relax. We encourage staff and pupils to think about the impact their actions have on the environment at a local, national, and global level. To this end, within our work with Environmental Education, we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

Aims

The purpose of Eco at St George's Central is to guide our pupils towards being pro-active, informed, and responsible people, preparing for life's journey as environmentally responsible citizens. We aim to:

- Ensure a whole school approach to caring for the environment.
- Develop and promote an awareness of environmental issues.
- Implement the national Eco-Schools Program in school.
- Become more sustainable in the school environment and reduce the environmental impact of the school.
- Give pupils responsibilities and promote teamwork.
- Encourage pupils to take the lead in the decision-making process.

Environmental Education

The main purpose of Environmental Education is to examine and interpret the environment from a variety of perspectives - physical, geographical, biological, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual. Environmental Education is cross-curricular, and opportunities are provided for learning about, in, through and for the environment:

- Education *about* the environment – to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that children will need to make sense of environmental issues.
- To provide education *in* the environment - to give children first-hand experience of various local environments.
- Education *for* the environment focuses on sustainable solutions to environmental problems, considering, that there are conflicting interests and different perspectives

Environmental Education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum in Science, Geography and PSHE and through links in all areas of the primary curriculum, we can ensure that every child at St George's Central has access to Environmental Education.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children experience Environmental Education by ensuring they are encouraged to:

- Explore and observe the local environment.
- Solve problems, make decisions, and think critically.
- Think about, and respond to, what they see, touch, smell and feel in the local environment.
- Explore the visual elements in natural and man-made objects including resources from their locality and different cultures.

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Eco Council

The Eco Council is formed at the beginning of the academic year. After the committee has been formed, they then conduct an environmental review of the school and formulate an action plan for issues they wish to resolve. Our work in Eco is underpinned by the Eco-schools ten topics, which cover a broad range of environmental topics. The range of topics available means that our Eco Council can focus on issues they are most concerned about. We aim to address the ten topics as follows:

Biodiversity

- School habitats will be used by the children to study flora and fauna and their habitat.
- Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
- Children will be encouraged to enhance the environment in such a way that promotes and nurtures wildlife.

Energy

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- The eco-club will audit the amount of energy used.
- The eco-club will appoint class monitors to ensure these recommendations are carried out.
- We will ensure radiators are turned down before windows are opened

Global Citizenship

- We will incorporate global issues into our curriculum through lessons, assemblies and participation in National and International focus days and events.
- We will provide opportunities for learning experiences beyond the confines of the classroom through educational visits and e-learning.
- We will encourage our school community to consider their place in the world and the impact that their choices can have upon it.

Healthy Living

- We will encourage healthy eating through the provision of fruit and healthy snacks.
- We will incorporate the education of healthy eating into curriculum subjects.
- We will provide healthy eating options during the school day and in breakfast club.
- We will continue to promote an active lifestyle and discuss the benefits of exercise through activities throughout and after the school day and also incorporate this into our lessons.

Litter

- We will encourage the school community to keep our school litter free.
- Litter bins will be provided in every room and around the school grounds.
- We will encourage recycling to reduce the amount of litter.
- We will undertake community litter picks both as part of our eco club's regular activities and as part of whole class community work in conjunction with the 'All Being Well' project.

Marine

- We will learn about marine life conservation as part of the curriculum.
- We will endeavor to reduce our single use plastic consumption.
- Where appropriate, school visits may be taken to beaches, rivers, or lakes.

School Grounds

- As a school we will take joint responsibility for the maintenance and development of our school grounds.
- We will ensure that areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will if possible be restored to their original condition.

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- Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect.
- We will use our school grounds to be sustainable and grow our own fruit and vegetables.
- We will work with classes to maintain our Jubilee garden, Kings Coronation garden and Wildflower garden regularly.

Transport

- We will encourage children, parents, and staff to walk to school or 'park and walk' using a range of national and local campaigns throughout the year.
- We will continue to take part in the Bikeability scheme to encourage safe cycling.
- We will encourage staff to transport children to ATSA events to save fuel.

Waste

- We will reduce the amount of paper we use in our classrooms by writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Most of the time, communications to parents (newsletters and notifications) will be sent electronically.
- Each area of school has and uses a paper recycling bin.
- Scrap paper will be used for wet play activities in each classroom.
- We will aim to reduce our plastic waste.

Water

- We will make sure we turn off taps and use sinks or bowls of water to clean equipment.
- We will use the water from water butts for growing areas.
- We will install water saving devices in our toilets.

Recording and reporting

The school's Eco Council member's photographs are displayed on the school Eco notice board. The environmental review, action plan and minutes of Eco meetings are kept electronically and recorded by the Eco Council members. A copy is also kept by the Eco lead. As a school we are continuing to gather evidence to maintain our green flag award and working towards our merit award. The school's Eco Club activities will be communicated on Twitter and other suitable social media channels with parents and the wider community, using the Twitter hashtag #SGCEco.

Subject leader

The role of the Subject Leader is to:

- Understand the requirements of the subject.
- Prepare policy documents and provide ideas to support learning in the curriculum areas which link to the environment.
- Effectively manage the allocated budget and ensure the effective, responsible, and safe use of resources.
- Keep a record of activities, meeting and actions taken by the Eco council.
- Coordinate the activities undertaken by the Eco council and ensure that actions are undertaken in the time frame set.
- Liaise with outside agencies to enhance the environmental education on offer at Saint George's Central.

Governors

The subject leader will encourage positive links with the Eco governor to keep the governing body aware of all major issues related to Eco in the school.

Conclusion

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that it is our professional duty to share this policy with all new members of staff, parents and carers on request. The policy will be reviewed in the light of experiences, new developments or requirements. The leader will discuss any aspect of this policy on request.

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