Buckland Primary School

Sustainability Policy 2025 – 2027

Believe, Excel, Strive, Together

Date: Autumn term 2025
Frequency of review: 2 years
Reviewed by: FGB and Eco Committee

Our school vision (Believe, Excel, Strive, Together) underpins all that we do at Buckland Primary School. Through building trusting relationships across our whole school community, we nurture our children to develop a love for learning whilst learning to respect others – this includes developing a love and respect for our planet and its resources. We recognise our responsibility to be courageous advocates who protect the natural world around us. We are committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

We encourage both pupils and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment.

Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'

Roles and responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents, and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations.
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents, and the community, and encouraging them to adopt the
- initiatives outlined within this policy.
- Promoting awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities.
- Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practicing policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.
- Preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach pupils about environmental concerns.
- Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.

- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow.
- Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.
- Ensuring that the site manager/caretaker understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the
- school grounds.

The governing board is responsible for:
• Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.
• Identifying, with the site manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this, such as installing motion sensor lights.
• Checking the environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.
• Ensuring equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.
• Ensuring the heating systems are monitored by the site manager to ensure the school remains at a comfortable temperature.
Teaching staff are responsible for:
• Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
• Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers are turned off when not in use.
The site manager is responsible for:
• Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
• Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the governing board.
• Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.
• Arranging and coordinating waste disposal from the premises and ensuring that all waste is disposed of correctly.
• Maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

Waste and recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- Recycling paper where appropriate.
- Using emails, as well as parent text/app-based messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Disposing of food waste in line with the school's procedures.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible. (Any paper containing
- personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy).
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share/re-use worksheets.
- Staff will be encouraged to consider what materials can be reused the following year, when clearing out their classrooms at the end of a term or year.
- The school's PTA run a pre-loved shop for uniforms, bags and school equipment.

The school will ensure that there are water fountains and taps with drinking water available for pupils to drink from and refill their water bottles. Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.

There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.

Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. It also understands that fines may be incurred where individuals deliberately litter the premises. The school will appoint

Eco / Sustainability Champions, which are pupils who meet regularly with the school Eco / Sustainability Lead to ensure that the school is delivering against its sustainability commitments.

With regards to litter, the Eco / Sustainability Champions will be responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school.
- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listening and responding to questions from the school committee.
- Organising and recruiting volunteers for litter picking groups.

Beyond the Eco / Sustainability Champions, every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly. Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in the appropriate bin, e.g., recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting the site manager/caretaker and the Eco / Sustainability Champions with the cleanliness of the premises.
- Monitoring our green areas (keeping them watered and looked after).

Transport

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school, where possible. The school will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.

The school will recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk, cycle or scoot to school; therefore, road safety and cycle/scooter safety information will be given to pupils through newsletters, assemblies, PSHE lessons and the provision of Bikeability/Scootability courses where available.

School grounds

The governing board and the site manager/caretaker will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, e.g., introducing motion sensitive lights and using energy-saving lightbulbs.

The governing board will monitor heating within the school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly. When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, the school will always consider any environmental impacts and the governing board will consult an expert.

As a school, we Identify and protect existing natural habitats on the school site, and use them as an opportunity to teach pupils about the natural world including within our Forest School and wildlife areas

Our aim is to make and develop new areas of biodiversity on the school site, for example by increasing plant diversity on grass that isn't being used for sports pitches and reducing the use of pesticide and herbicide, where possible.

Healthy living

Through the school's culture and values an ethos of environmental understanding will be promoted. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment. The school will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that each individual has on the environment.

The school will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle, for example, walking instead of driving. The school will provide fruit/vegetables as snacks for EYFS and KS1. The school will ensure pupils get at least 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day, in line with NHS recommendations.

Energy

The school will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and installing draught excluders so that warm air is
- retained.
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors, and interactive white
- boards, when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the site manager / caretaker.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- Upgrading the school's heating system to a modern, more efficient system, including a smart meter, to reduce emissions (work plan).
- Switching to high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) (HE CHP) or CHP based on renewable energy sources, or gas-fired CHP only.
- Displaying information around the school and in classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.

Reducing carbon emissions

The school is committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing renewable or more energy-efficient technologies, such as air-source heat pumps.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.

Curriculum

The school will aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum.

As a school we aim for children to be fully engaged in understanding and participating in our sustainability approach. So they are:

- ✓ Passionate about the natural world
- ✓ Want to do their best to protect the natural world
- ✓ Can influence their wider communities

As part of the sustainability curriculum, the school will participate in action and awareness days such as Big Bird Watch, Great Big Green Week, Earth Hour, Earth Day and Cut Your Carbon.