

# **HAMSEY GREEN & ACORN NURSERY SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**



Hamsey Green  
Primary School



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# HAMSEY GREEN & ACORN NURSERY

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### Context

Sustainable education helps us learn how to take care of our planet so that future generations can enjoy it too. Our daily choices, like saving energy, reducing waste, and protecting nature, make a big difference. At school, we work together to recycle, use less water, and look after our environment, in line with our school value 'nurture'.

A healthy planet means a better future for everyone, and by making small, positive changes, we can help keep our world safe and beautiful. Through learning and action, we can all become responsible citizens who care for people, places, and nature.

### Aims

At Hamsey Green Primary School and Acorns Nursery, we are committed to helping our pupils understand the world around them and the importance of caring for both the planet and its people. Our school embraces a caring ethos, ensuring that we are mindful of the energy and water we use, the waste we create, the food we provide, and the impact of traffic on our community. We also recognize the challenges faced by people locally and globally. We value both the natural environment and the human-made world as vital, inspiring parts of life. Guided by these values and through our work with '[Let's Go Zero](#)' and '[Eco Schools](#)', developing our Sustainability Action Plan, we take responsibility for protecting our planet for future generations and aim to:

- Promote a lifelong commitment to sustainability on personal, national, and global levels.
- Empower children to be responsible and positive citizens in society.
- Encourage pupils to engage in decision-making about the school's environmental priorities.
- Monitor, measure, and actively reduce our environmental impact in key areas, including:
  - Transport (staff and parents)
  - Water conservation
  - Waste reduction (reduce, reuse, recycle)
  - Energy efficiency (gas and electricity)

- Sustainable procurement (using Fair Trade products, recycled paper, and eco-friendly cleaning materials)

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **The Headteacher and SLT**

- Make sure staff CPD plans cover sustainability, e.g. including climate change and sustainability in science teachers' CPD, and providing sustainable usage training for all staff
- Review every subject and/curriculum policy in the next 12 months with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education
- Work with our school premises and our Trust Finance staff to look at where to invest money to reduce carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and resilience
- Develop and deliver our school's climate action plan by 2025
- Communicate the sustainability policy to the school community

### **Sustainability lead**

- Receive carbon literacy training and co-ordinate delivery of this training to all staff (if needed)
- Identify appropriate areas of the school grounds to use as an environmental classroom
- Encourage whole-school participation in environmental awareness days such Recycling Week, as [Earth Day](#) (22 April), [World Ocean Day](#) (8 June) and [Clean Air Day](#) (15 June), participate in The Big Plastic Week
- Lead a whole school sustainability audit to identify current and future opportunities for change
- Develop our eco-club or gardening club to help pupils learn about nature outside of the curriculum

### **Curriculum/subject leads**

- Carry out a sustainability audit for their subject, identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world, sustainable practices, and the circular economy
- Identify ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects, e.g. reducing printing
- Incorporate Forest School and outdoor education into their curriculum area
- Apply the new primary science model curriculum with an emphasis on nature (primary)

## **Trust Finance Team**

- Carry out sustainable procurement practices by considering usage, waste and supply chains as part of the assessment and validation criteria used when purchasing goods and services
- Identify funding opportunities for sustainable development and lead bids for that funding, e.g. smart meters, low-carbon boiler replacement
- Communicate waste reduction practices in school to encourage sustainable and cost-effective behaviour, e.g. limiting printing, and turning off lights

## **Premises Team**

- Keep the school site clean and safe for effective outdoor learning
- Maintain verges around the school sports pitches as wild grassland areas to encourage biodiversity
- Make sure all lights, taps, and unnecessary appliances are switched off at the end of each day
- Conduct energy and water usage audits at the end of every term
- Receive training on a whole-school approach to food
- Approve policies that have been reviewed with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education
- Monitor progress of our school's climate action plan

## **Governors/Trustees**

- Consider and implement strategies for the trust to reduce waste by sharing resources between schools
- Review the sustainability of a school's practices and procedures when considering adding that school to the trust
- Communicate trust-wide values of environmentalism, sustainability, and respect for the natural world

## **The National Curriculum**

The DfE's strategy, linked above, highlights the role of schools in engaging directly with children, who:

- Are passionate about the natural world
- Want to do their best to protect the natural world
- Can influence their wider communities

Sustainability has clear links with the National Curriculum – Science, Geography, the Arts as well as PSHE and Citizenship. This also links closely to our school values and outdoor education.

Over the next twelve months under these categories, we aim to:

### **Education**

- review our curriculum with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education
- encourage whole-school participation in environmental awareness days such as Recycling Week, as [Earth Day](#) (22 April), [World Ocean Day](#) (8 June) and [Clean Air Day](#) (15 June)
- develop our eco-club or gardening club to help pupils learn about nature outside of the curriculum

### **Food and catering**

Alongside our catering company, we pledge to:

- promote pupils' understanding of food and where it comes from
- participate in '[Meat-free Mondays](#)' or another scheme to reduce high-carbon food in your menus

### **Waste and Re-cycling**

- have clearly labelled bins throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste, and posters on how to use them.
- wherever possible, compost food waste from the kitchen and class food bins and use this to support the growth of food and other plants on the school site through composting.

- teach pupils about the several types of bins they might have in their homes and encourage them to continue good recycling habits when they are not at school.
- wherever possible, reduce paper waste by printing on both sides of paper, having scrap-paper drawers and using emails as much as possible.
- encourage staff to consider what materials can be reused the following year, when clearing out their classrooms at the end of a term or year.
- encourage pupils to bring reusable water bottles into school or use school washable cups rather than using disposable single-use plastics.
- encourage families to make their costumes, wear PJs or use the PTA preloved shop for World Book Day and other themed days, rather than buying new costumes.
- encourage parents to make use of the PTA preloved shop rather than purchase new uniform.
- through our Finance Team, consider sustainability as part of the assessment and validation criteria for including suppliers on procurement frameworks, to support the sustainable purchasing of products and services.
- continue to recycle paper/card, batteries printer ink/cartridges and clothing through our PTA clothing bin

## **Energy and water**

We aim to reduce energy consumption with steps such as:

- switching off lights and appliances when they are not in use
- displaying information around the school to help pupils understand the importance of switching off appliances and saving energy
- conducting a thermal heating audit and then installing draft excluders to retain warm air and reduce energy consumption for heating
- continue to audit the amount of energy used each term
- turning off taps when not in use
- displaying posters reminding pupils of the importance of turning off taps and saving water
- continue to audit water usage every term

- ensuring all bulbs are LEDs

## **Transport and travel**

We pledge to:

- sign up for 'bikability' cycle safety lessons for all pupils in year 4 and 6.
- sign our Year 3s to undertake Feet First Walking Training.
- encourage school staff to share lifts to off-site training wherever possible to reduce car use.
- continue to audit the carbon footprint of our school trips. We use this information to consider more environmentally friendly options- walk where possible!

## **Buildings and grounds**

We aim to:

- make sure that there are enough rubbish bins and organise a litter-picking teams to keep our school site clean
- continue to use the forest area and pond, protecting our natural habitats, and use them as an opportunity to teach pupils about the natural world
- continue to develop new areas of biodiversity on the school site, by planting hedgerows