



Moira Primary School

Sustainability Policy

2026 - 2028

This plan has been agreed and adopted by the Governing Body of Moira Primary School in **September 2026. It will be reviewed and updated every two years or as required.**

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Date: _____

Moira Primary School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an increasingly eco-friendly lifestyle.

We encourage 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 our school is working to be as sustainable as we can.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and 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 (2022) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Environment Act 2021
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013;
- GEMS Tips to reduce energy and water use in schools;
- Sustainability and Climate Change: a strategy for education and children's services - April 2022.

The school's Sustainability Lead is Mrs Mandy Bourne. They are responsible for coordinating sustainability initiatives included on the climate action plan, monitoring progress and reporting annually to governors.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for

- Holding senior leaders to account for environmental sustainability;
- Consider environmental impacts where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned;
- Receiving reports on each school's energy usage;
- Receiving information on the use of sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable (or reusable) cups for water rather than plastic.

School leaders are responsible for

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the value of environmental sustainability;
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations;
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents/ carers, 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 practising policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.
- Reviewing the latest research to ensure that practice and this policy remain up to date in line with current guidance.
- 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 are aware of the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably, although overall responsibility for ensuring this would be via their employer;
- Ensuring that all staff understand their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

Teaching and learning staff are responsible for

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons;
- Promoting recycling of waste materials in school;
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use;
- Wider reading or CPD on environmental sustainability.

School Site staff are responsible for

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed;
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to senior leaders.

The Eco-Council are responsible for

- Monitoring any litter problems in school and raise awareness of any issues in the wider community;
- Promoting a litter-free environment to other pupils;
- Discussing ways to recycle and avoid unnecessary waste;
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school.

All pupils are responsible for

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school;
- Walking, cycling, or scooting to school, when possible;
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running;
- Helping to keep our classrooms, school, and grounds clean and tidy;
- Trying to eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging;
- Using the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste where possible.

This policy encourages parents/carers to be responsible for

- Promoting eco-friendly ways/ ideas at home;
- Encouraging children to walk, cycle or scoot to school, when possible;
- Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle;
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

Waste and recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible;
- Using emails (rather than written notes) as much as possible, to reduce paper waste;
- Using emails, Teachers to Parents, Dojo, the school's website and electronic newsletters when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste;
- Composting food waste, both from the kitchen and food brought into school by pupils;
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible;
- Only printing documents when it is essential and only the amount of sheets needed;
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes;
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets;
- Where possible, only laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use;
- Recycling old IT equipment.
- Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles;
- Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled;
- There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste;
- We will display posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment;

- Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with our Data Protection Policy;
- Staff will encourage pupils to partake in litter-picking around the school grounds,
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is regulated to reduce the number of devices and equipment that is incinerated or sent to landfill sites. To reduce the school's carbon footprint and minimise the impact on global warming, the necessary steps are taken to ensure WEEE is disposed of properly.
- The types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) the school will safely dispose of include, but are not limited to, the following: Desktop computers, Servers, Laptops, Monitors, Printers, Projectors, Scanners or Interactive whiteboards.
- Senior leaders, in collaboration with the 3rd Party IT Technician, will find a suitable partner, to dispose of WEEE safely. The IT Technician will contact the agreed contractor for more information and guidance, where necessary. Before disposal, the IT Technician will ensure data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Data Retention Policy.

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.
- Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly. Specifically, individuals are responsible for:
 - Putting litter in a bin;
 - Using the appropriate recycling bins;
 - Using resources thoughtfully;
 - Reusing resources where possible;
 - Assisting with the cleanliness of the premises.
- All staff have responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises.
- The Office Manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

Transport

- Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school (as appropriate), where possible;
- The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school when possible, will be promoted throughout the school;
- We will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days;
- We will produce informative material, such as posters and leaflets, regarding the impact of the carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles and public transport on the environment, which will be displayed and distributed around school.

School grounds

- School leaders will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption in collaboration with the Local Authority, e.g. introducing motion-sensitive lights;
- Energy saving lightbulbs, or more energy-efficient lighting will be used throughout school when lighting is being replaced;
- When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts.

Healthy living

- We will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment;
- We will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that each individual has on the environment;
- We will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle;
- Pupils will receive at least two hours of PE per week.

Sustainable farming

- We will teach pupils where food comes from as part of PSHE lessons, including giving them first-hand experience of growing their own fruit or vegetables;
- We take part in a yearly project with 'The Bee Farmer' and have our own Bee Hive in school which we take care of and harvest and sell local honey each year to our school community.

Energy

We will reduce our energy usage by

- Switching off lights when they're not in use;
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and begin to install 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;
- Using digital temperature controls for the school sites where appropriate;
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste by considering products 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 systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the Premises Officer;
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term;
- 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;
- We will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight, for example, in the school entrance;
- We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions.
- Emissions will be reduced by:
 - Advertising the benefits of being environmentally-friendly around school
 - Promoting the benefits of recycling
 - Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as far as practically possible.

Sustainable procurement of goods

- We will attempt to ensure procurement is done in the most sustainable way;
- Our procurement of goods will endeavour to ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced from within the UK or locally where possible;

Curriculum

- We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within areas of our curriculum.
- Our school will aim to be a member of the Eco Schools programme within the next 12 months. This is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with environment and sustainable development issues. It provides a highly structured system for the environmental management of schools. (www.eco-schools.org). The structure of the Eco-Schools process is made up of seven steps, and this forms the basis of the programme.

The seven steps include

- Eco Committee
- Environmental Review
- Action Plan
- Linking to the curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Involving the whole school and wider community
- Eco Code.