



## **Wildridings Primary School SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

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<b>Chair of the Governing Body</b>	<b>Mr Oli Rock</b>

<b>Approved by FGB</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Next Review</b>	December 2028

## Overview

Sustainability is an important and integral part of day-to-day life at Wildridings Primary School. We aim to become an environmentally friendly educational setting that reduces our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. We wish to instil an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practice in pupils, staff and our wider school community.

In line with the government's goals to become a net zero nation, our school is committed to promoting the importance of sustainable living. We regularly review our curriculum to ensure that we are actively preparing our pupils for a sustainable future, developing their awareness and appreciation of caring for the environment. Extracurricular activities give our pupils further opportunity to deepen their understanding and become active, caring citizens. An example of this is the Eco Council who have earned Eco Schools status for the last three years.

Our school environment is managed in a manner that demonstrates positive, sustainable practice to our pupils and their families. Our goal is to ensure that our school site and the practices that occur both inside and outside of the school building are sustainable and in line with government expectations relating to sustainability and climate change. The ways in which we manage matters of food, transport and travel, waste reduction and our consumption of energy and water reflect the values and ethos we wish to promote to the children and wider school community.

## Aims

The aims of this sustainability strategy/policy are:

1. **Reduce environmental impact** – minimise waste through recycling, composting and reduced single-use materials; lower energy consumption and improve energy efficiency; encourage sustainable transportation
2. **Promote sustainable learning and culture** – embed sustainability topics across the curriculum; encourage students to understand global environmental issues; foster a culture of responsibility and eco-friendly habits
3. **Improve school operations** – adopt sustainable procurement practises; improve building design and maintenance to meet green standards; manage grounds and outdoor spaces to support biodiversity
4. **Engage the school community** – involve students, staff, families and local partners in sustainability initiatives; strengthen collaboration through clubs, Eco Council and community events
5. **Support long-term resilience** – plan for climate risks (eg. heat, storms); build systems and policies that ensure the school can operate sustainably over time; encourage financial sustainability through cost-saving resource management.

## Roles and Responsibilities

This policy has been written by Sarah Lewis in collaboration with Brent Ellis, Matt Dawes, Rob Bradshaw and Denise Saunders (Dolce Representative).

Our school's sustainability lead is Sarah Lewis.

The governor with responsibility for sustainability is Jim Stockley

All staff and pupils at Wildridings Primary School have a role to play in developing a sustainable school environment. We all have the following responsibilities:

1. We must act in a kind and compassionate manner, thinking of how our actions affect the school environment and wider world.
2. We must integrate sustainability into teaching and learning to promote critical thinking about global issues such as climate change, resource use and biodiversity.
3. We must maintain a safe and eco-friendly environment to ensure that classroom and outdoor activities minimise harm to the environment.

## Curriculum / Climate Education and Green Careers

Ensuring pupils at Wildridings Primary School access a curriculum that teaches them about the importance of sustainability and how to live more sustainable lives is integral to the ethos and values of our school. Climate education provides students with the opportunity to acquire broad knowledge that underpins our understanding of the climate system and the role humans play in shaping it, however also provides students with key life skills and insights into global citizenship. Students should feel empowered to be active participants in sustainability solutions and will be better prepared to thrive in the green transition.

Across our curriculum, opportunities are developed to enable pupils to learn about sustainable living. These opportunities may be targeted and specific, based on national curriculum objectives. As an example, through the PSHE curriculum, our Summer 2 theme is 'How can we help the world?' and subjects including looking after the environment, recycling and pollution are covered in KS1 while in KS2 topics such as deforestation, poverty, global warming, plastic in the oceans and Fair Trade are studied. In Science, topics including wildlife and plants, food waste and biodiversity, energy and deforestation, global warming and plastic pollution are covered.

However, opportunities may also occur outside of our usual curriculum expectations. For example, ad-hoc opportunities to educate our pupils on sustainable practice may arise when discussing the day-to-day life of our school, such as the reasons why we must turn off lights when leaving a room, why we choose not to use single-use plastic bottles and why utilising both sides of paper before recycling is a usual practice in our classrooms.

Our programme of extracurricular activities and clubs also enables pupils to access further learning opportunities about sustainability. Wildridings Primary School has an Eco Council with representatives elected from every class in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 who will act as role models to the rest of their peers and lead initiatives across the school. We will also run a Gardening Club as we have in previous academic years.

Beyond the classroom, our pupils will be given the following opportunities to extend their understanding and learning of sustainability:

1. The school will join a Climate Change Network in order to increase our knowledge of up-to-date information
2. External speakers will be invited in to school to share information with the children in a fun and informative way
3. Children will be able to run their own climate-based projects to empower them and encourage their own ability to make sustainable decisions moving forwards

## **Food Management**

To ensure that Wildridings Primary School meets sustainability expectations relating to the management of food and the catering system at our school, the following actions will be taken:

1. Reduce food waste by composting food waste at school
2. Promote plants and reduce meat consumption by having a 'Plant Power' day
3. Reduce use of single use plastics and waste by having all food delivered by the same company

Through introducing these practices, we hope to make a considerable impact, demonstrating sustainable practice to our staff, pupils, their families and the wider community. We hope that pupils will implement their learning at home, widening the influence of their education and increasing the benefits of these sustainable practices. Food management typically accounts for around 8% of emissions in education settings. Producing food creates carbon emissions and each type of food has a different carbon footprint.

As part of our curriculum expectations, pupils will be taught a clear and comprehensive food curriculum that encourages them (and by extension, their families) to adopt sustainable life skills and approaches to food.

## **Waste Reduction**

Wildridings Primary School is committed to reducing the amount of waste we produce and divert to landfill. To ensure we are able to limit the amount of waste generated in our school, we aim to instil good practice among pupils, staff and the wider community to ensure that, where possible, materials are recycled and repurposed.

We will endeavour to:

1. Improve recycling by improving recycling facilities in school and ensure they are clearly labelled
2. Encourage reusing by running second hand uniform events
3. Banning the use of single-use plastic water bottles

To further our commitment, we are also ensuring that, where possible, our school sources, procures and uses sustainable, reusable materials and products. This will enable us to contribute to efforts to reduce the use of single use plastics and to ensure that items are not disposed of into landfill as these items typically account for around 36% of emissions in education settings. Schools use a wide range of products in high quantities and the manufacturing of these creates carbon emissions,

so it is important to review our purchasing habits and the environmental impact of these products and the companies they are sourced from.

## **Energy and Water**

To reduce the impact Wildridings Primary School has on the environment through the use of energy (electricity and gas) and water which normally accounts for 23% of emissions in education settings, our school aims, where possible, to monitor and limit our consumption. The following actions have been implemented to demonstrate our commitment to this goal:

1. Running a 'Switch Off' campaign to help change the behaviours of our community
2. Assess building for draughts and leaks to reduce heating demand
3. Promoting water conservation practises in school and around the local community

Where possible, Wildridings Primary School will endeavour to update and replace existing systems and equipment which are less energy efficient or outdated. This includes, but is not limited to, our heating system, the toileting facilities and electrical equipment, such as computers and other related technology. This will enable us to ensure that our school's energy and water consumption is sustainable and in line with our wider goals of becoming environmentally friendly. Updating these aspects of our school may also provide a significant financial benefit for Wildridings Primary School, reducing costs and futureproofing our systems.

It is important that staff, pupils and their families are informed of the importance of adopting sustainable practices in relation to energy and water consumption. For example, we will ensure that all members of our school community understand and value expectations, such as keeping windows closed in colder temperatures and turning off electrical equipment when it is not in use. Instilling these practices in day-to-day school life will enable our values and ethos to be driven towards our goals and ensure that our consumption is reduced for the benefit of all.

## **Transport and Travel**

Where possible, Wildridings Primary School will endeavour to promote sustainable practices relating to transport and travel.

Our efforts in this area include initiatives which will encourage staff, pupils and their families to travel to school via more sustainable, environmentally friendly means, including walking, use of bicycles and scooters and, as necessary, public transport. This will enable our school to reduce the impact of our carbon footprint, reducing the number of vehicles on the roads and the frequency of vehicles idling on, or near to, our school grounds as this typically accounts for around 33% of emissions in education settings.

To support our school community with their efforts to reduce the impact of transport and travel on the environment, we will do the following:

1. Encourage active travel by providing cycling skills for students
2. Encourage active travel by providing bike and scooter storage
3. Encourage active travel by providing walking buses

Where additional transport or travel arrangements are required, such as on the occasion of educational visits or assisting pupils and their families with attending the school site, we will endeavour to procure transport via eco-conscious organisations and companies.

## **School Buildings and Site / Adaptation and Resilience**

To demonstrate Wildridings Primary School's continued commitment to improving its sustainable practices, the following actions will be taken in relation to the existing school building/site:

1. Prepare our school for the physical impacts of overheating from climate change by installing ventilation and cooling
2. Install water efficient fixtures such as low-flush taps and dual flush toilets as well as harvesting rainwater
3. Rewilding area of the school ground as well as growing our own food

Where new school buildings are required, Wildridings Primary School will endeavour to ensure that all plans and building works are carried out in accordance with recent guidelines and initiatives. Our aim is to ensure that any works conducted are kind to the environment and demonstrate sustainable practice to staff and pupils and their families.

Our school site will be used to promote the benefits of living in a sustainable manner. Where possible, pupils will be educated in outdoor spaces that enhance the delivery of our school curriculum.

We will work with our site management team to ensure that the outdoor environment of our school promotes the ethos and values we are hoping to uphold, providing our pupils with opportunities to learn about flora and fauna and increase the biodiversity of our school site. Increasing biodiversity can be achieved through protecting and enhancing the green spaces that already exist, whilst also expanding and creating new green spaces. Also thinking about how traditionally 'grey' spaces can be turned 'green', for example introducing planters to playgrounds or greening walls and roof space. Protecting, enhancing and creating green spaces brings with it a whole host of benefits, including a significant positive impact on wellbeing, fantastic opportunities for learning outdoors and helping Wildridings Primary School become more resilient to the changing climate.

Climate change is resulting in a more variable climate with more weather extremes like high temperatures (heat waves), heavy rainfall, wind storms, as well as other hazards, for example associated with rising sea-levels. Adaptation refers to action taken, or behaviour change, to protect ourselves and our environment from impacts of climate change like these. Even with action to decarbonise our activities we will likely still need to adjust to either more frequent extreme weather or events that are more extreme than we have experienced in the past.