



Environmental Policy

Adopted by Diversity & Standards Committee on behalf of the Governing body: *Autumn 2015*
Amended: *Autumn 2015*

Vision Phrase

'Aim high and smile'

We are committed to safeguarding and ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all pupils in accordance with safeguarding procedures and guidance for staff outlined in the school's Health and Safety, Child Protection, Security and Safeguarding policies.



Environmental Policy

At West Hove Infant School, we feel that it is important for the whole school community to have a shared understanding and responsibility of how to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment in which we live, work and play.

One of our key school aims is to foster a respect in our children for the rights and needs of others and the environment. Our overall aim is for everyone in the school community to take responsibility for the school's and their own actions and develop a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live. The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is by following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle.

Aims

To this end, West Hove Infant School has three key environmental aims:

- to reduce wastage of resources and to maximise reusing and recycling;
- to increase awareness of environmental issues amongst children and staff;
- to minimise the use of non-renewable and environmentally-damaging resources.

Work already taking place

We are very proud of the environmental work that already takes place at West Hove Infant School. Everyone at the school is responsible for moving the school forward in eco terms, however, there is an Eco-Coordinator who takes the lead in implementing action plans developed, monitoring progress and ensuring the school community are fully aware of the environmental policy.

We are working towards becoming an Eco-School Bronze Award winner and we are keen to improve on our eco-credentials and become a Silver Award winner in the near future. This Environmental Policy is a key step towards this aim. The Eco-Schools project is a programme that promotes environmental awareness by linking curriculum subjects and developing education for a sustainable future. It works in a holistic way by involving the whole school - children, teachers, non-teaching staff, governors - together with members of the local community, parents, local authority, media and local business.

The School Council is vital in making the whole school more environmentally friendly. For example, the council has made information and reminder posters, which have been put up all over the school:

Turn off the lights! Don't forget to shut down the computers! and so on. They continue to monitor progress made and suggest new ways of helping the school become more "green". A Gardening Club have been established to

encourage the children to take an active role in leading and monitoring the school's environmental impact.

On an educational level, there are links to many curriculum subject areas, for example, science, geography, design and technology, PHSE (personal, health, social and emotional education). Year group investigations might include:

- Awareness of the impact on the school on the environment;
- How to use energy more efficiently;
- Making environmental issues part of everyday life;
- Developing decision making skills;
- A sense of achievement in making a difference and impact on the community.

We run an annual Eco-week where many exciting events take place and raise awareness of issues such as energy saving, recycling printer cartridges and phones, composting and fun things to do with recycled items. However, many of these issues are discussed and acted upon on a daily basis. For example, every classroom and photocopier rooms have a paper recycling bins or boxes.

Guidelines for continued success

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Respect

There is still much we can do to meet our environmental aims. These include instilling in the children and staff to **reduce** waste of precious resources:

Energy

- switching off lights when they are not in use;
- keeping outside doors shut in cold weather;
- making sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed;
- ensuring that all computers, screens, printers and videos are turned off.

Paper

- writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible;
- sending out information electronically to parents (paper copies are available for those without computers/email addresses);
- increasing our recycle points around the school.

Transport

- continuing to promote walking, riding or using public transport to school;
- encouraging staff to share transport when going on courses etc.(See also Travel Plans for each site)

We also aim to **re-use** items whenever possible:

- using donated items in art or recycling if unusable;
- re-using paper in every classroom. (Each class has a box of partially used paper, which can be used again. Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.);
- photocopies will be filed and used again;
- display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible;
- outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it;
- good condition uniform, will be sold or given to charity.

We also **recycle** a range of materials on a regular basis:

- paper and card are collected in every class room and office and placed in large green recycling bin for council collection on a regular basis;
- non-refillable printer cartridges will be collected in a labelled bin;
- Plastic, glass and aluminum will also be collected regularly.

One of our most important school rules is to **respect** one another. This rule permeates all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other. We also extend this respect to the environment.

As we continue to develop our outside spaces to include a range of natural habitats for wildlife and flora, children will be taught to respect the natural world and ensure that all living creatures are returned to their original habitat, and that plants are looked after and protected. However, they will also be expected to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

Other issues

We will also endeavour to meet the following goals:

Purchasing - We will buy renewable, recycled, recyclable, non-toxic and locally produced products whenever possible.

Contractors, suppliers etc – We will support and encourage any suppliers, contractors and other partners to be as environmentally responsible as possible and ensure they receive a copy of our environmental policy.

Waste Management - We have a waste management plan for all aspects of the school's operation following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. We ensure that waste is disposed of safely and responsibly. Waste management will be considered when planning new operations.

Pest Control - Environmentally benign methods of pest control will be used where feasible.

Landscaping – As we continue to develop natural landscaping and wildlife habitats in the school grounds, grounds-care procedures that reduce the use of chemicals, fertilizers and herbicides will be encouraged.

Food Services -When food or beverages are served on school property, reusable dishes and containers will be used whenever possible.

Transportation –We have a scooter and bike area at both sites where children can leave their scooters and bikes. We will ensure that we minimise the use of coach or bus use for school visits by walking the children where possible.

Indoor Air Quality - Where possible, we will use non-toxic, hypoallergenic building and maintenance products.

Staff Development - We shall ensure that all employees are provided with instruction on environmental policy and practice.

Curriculum

- Environmental impact will be considered when looking at curricula and/or resources.
- The global care of the world shall be reflected in the curriculum of all subject/discipline areas.
- Specific environmental education curricula will be encouraged and developed for particular year groups.
- Teachers will be encouraged to heighten their awareness of environmental issues and develop teaching strategies that reflect this awareness.

Fundraising – We shall consider the environmental impact when engaging in fundraising activities.

Assessment

The Eco-Cordinator will continue to monitor progress made on the above guidelines and the revised action plan. We are looking into setting up Eco meetings with the School Council and a Gardening Club is also being established to encourage the children to take an active role in monitoring the school's environmental impact. Our annual parents' survey will have relevant questions as will the staff and children's survey. Observation of the children and the school grounds will be a good indication of the success of some of

these strategies. Events such as assemblies and the children's work will be another way of measuring the effectiveness of this policy.

Summary / Action Plan

We will:

1. Reduce, reuse and recycle.
2. Use sustainable, renewable, recycled, recyclable, non-toxic and locally produced products whenever possible
3. Encourage a desire in children to participate individually and collectively in environmental issues through appropriate classroom and school-wide activities at all levels.
4. Encourage teachers to increase their environmental awareness through attendance at conferences, workshops and other professional activities.
5. Re-visit and update our school environmental action plan. The Eco-coordinator will monitor the school's environmental action plan and provide the school community with a report on the successes and failures of the action plan.
6. Encourage the community to participate in the environmental education of children through field trips, guest speakers, parent involvement in school and the formulation of environmental plans.
7. Inform the community of our goals, achievements and events related to the environment, and promote outside programmes such as Christmas tree recycling, and municipal composting.