

Policy for Sustainable Development

This document is a statement of the aims, principals and strategies for the teaching and learning of sustainable development at Barnby Dun Primary Academy.

What is Sustainable development?

Sustainable development empowers children to take responsibility for the future of themselves, the local and global community and the environment. It studies the use of energy, water and food, local issues including traffic and travel and any difficulties faced by the local community. It is defined by 9 topics where sustainable development can be established or built upon.

The 9 topics include;

1. Energy
2. Water
3. Biodiversity
4. School Grounds
5. Healthy Living
6. Transport
7. Litter
8. Waste
9. Global Citizenship

The subject's central focus derives from the effects people have on local and global environments.

Aims

Our aims in teaching sustainable development are to;

- Stimulate pupils' interest in their local environment and the affects the local community has upon it.
- Enable pupils to develop a sense of care for oneself, each other and the environment.
- Encourage positive attitudes to local issues and climate change.
- Develop enquiry and questioning skills.
- Develop an informed concern about the future of the environment.
- To explore and be aware of global issues.
- To share responsibility with the wider community in promoting and practising actions that show concern and care for the future of the local and global environment.

Objectives

The curriculum in our school should enable pupils to;

- Investigate at first hand the affects people can have on the environment.
- Study the affects people have on local and global environments and how these affects shape the future of the environment.
- Have an understanding of the changes taking place in the local and global community.
- Appreciate and understand the impact they and others have on the environment.
- Investigate how people can implement positive changes in their local and global community.
- Understand different opinions to the issues surrounding local and global communities.
- Become familiar and practise ways that can have a positive impact on the environment.

Acquire skills in;

- Communicating their findings and opinions through speech, writing, pictures and diagrams.
- Creating hypotheses and making informed decisions.
- Using a variety of sources of information about local and global issues.

Methods for teaching and promoting sustainable development

We endeavour to address the issues of sustainable development through all aspects of school life including the schools topic based curriculum. The 9 topics clearly identify the areas that children should be taught and the issues they should be made aware of. This means that sustainable development can be integrated into the topic based curriculum and relevant links with other subject areas can be made.

The school offers children regular opportunities to take part in eco warriors and gardening clubs.

Inclusion and Participation

All children regardless of background, including race, gender and ability have an entitlement to a relevant and appropriate curriculum. It is important to challenge any stereotyped attitudes and promote full participation from all children. All children are encouraged to participate in decision making through the curriculum and through such bodies as the 'Eco-Warriors committee' and the 'School Council'.

The following pages explain how the school will approach each of the 9 Eco-Schools topics.

Healthy Living

As a healthy school we are aware and actively promote balanced school meals. We recognise that this can improve the health and well being of both the staff and children.

See the Healthy Living Policy and Food Policy for further details.

Energy and Water

As an Eco School we recognise the need to reduce our use of energy and water. We monitor our energy uses and strive to find ways of reducing our carbon footprint.

We will:

- Switch off electrical appliances when not in use;
- Repair leaking taps promptly;
- Harvest rainwater for use within the school grounds;
- Record and analyse meter readings.

Transport

We recognise the need to promote greener travel as a way of reducing emissions and congestion around our local community.

We will;

- Actively encourage the children to walk/cycle to school where possible.
- Offer the children road safety and cycle training.
- Ensure the children are aware how choosing a greener mode of transport can impact on the environment.

Waste

The school reuses and recycles wherever possible and aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary printing. Each teacher has control of the level of heat in their classroom so heat is not wasted.

To eliminate as much waste as possible going to landfill we will:

- Use paper sparingly before putting it in the recycling bags;
- Use email and Home Contact to communicate with parents and carers, in the first instance, to minimise ink and paper usage;
- Compost all suitable materials;
- Recycle items such as paper, cardboard and ink cartridges.
- Offer the wider community a place to recycle their old mobile phones, used batteries and ink cartridges.

Global Citizenship

Through our topic based curriculum children can investigate global issues. 'Philosophy for Children' and PSHCE sessions give children the stage to discuss and understand the lives of people living in other parts of the world.

As a school, we participate in activities linking us to the wider world such as Red Nose Day and Children in Need. We have also started to develop links with schools in other countries using Epals.

School Grounds

As the school building is refurbished we will use environmentally friendly products and processes where possible practicable and dispose of used items e.g. fluorescent tubes in an eco-friendly manner, meeting current environmental regulations.

We will continue to use and extend the school's natural learning environment for curriculum subjects, and tend and grow.

Litter

As a school we understand that litter is an environmental issue. To help combat this we will;

- Organise litter picks when necessary.
- Ensure bins are accessible inside and outside school.
- Ensure children understand the environmental implications of dropping litter.

Bio-diversity

As a school we will utilise Barnby Woods to allow children to understand and explore bio-diversity issues.

We will;

- Actively encourage wildlife to Barnby Woods.
- Grow and nurture plants and trees.
- Explore bio-diversity issues through the Science curriculum.
- Give children the opportunity to experience this issue with hands on learning.

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