

Jarrow Cross C of E Primary School

Sustainability Policy 2023

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Overview

Jarrow Cross Primary is committed to being a sustainable and environmentally friendly school. We aim to reduce our carbon footprint and to implement and pursue practices which will help to foster an awareness and understanding of the environment in both pupils, staff and the wider community.

Jarrow Cross has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the world's resources wisely. Pupils are expected to demonstrate an active interest in and concern for all-natural environments and we hope to encourage each pupil to recognise their role in tending to the future of the planet.

The way the School environment is managed and maintained should provide an example to pupils of how to respect and care for the environment. Wherever possible, pupils and staff should be encouraged and expected to adopt sustainable practices. Education for sustainable development should give pupils a greater understanding of both natural and human systems through a range of immediate environmental experiences that engage their senses, emotions and thinking. It should enable the School Community to develop a life ethic that values all people and the natural environment. Ultimately it should ensure that each pupil understands and respects their environment, both inside and outside of school.

Aims

Jarrow Cross has a caring ethos. It cares about the energy and water it consumes, the waste it produces, the food it serves, the traffic it attracts and the difficulties faced by people living in its community and in other parts of the world. We value the environment, both natural and that shaped by humanity, as the centre of life and a source of wonder and inspiration.

On the basis of these values, we accept our responsibility to maintain a sustainable environment for future generations and aim to ensure that:

- Every pupil can participate in making Jarrow Cross an eco-friendly and sustainable community.
- Develop children's awareness, understanding and respect for the environments they live in and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, national and global level.
- Enable children to be positive citizens in society

- Pupils can learn about and decide on the priorities for our school (Eco Committee)
- All pupils, staff and visitors to our school sense and follow our Eco-Code which is fundamental to our school ethos.
- Monitor, measure and reduce the environmental impact of the following:
Transport (parents and staff)
Water use
Waste (reduce, reuse, recycle)
Energy (gas and electric)
Procurement (use fair-trade, recycled paper, ecologically friendly cleaning products)

Roles and Responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations. • Sharing good practice with pupils, parents 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.
- Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.
- Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.
- Ensuring that the Care Taker understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

Eco Team:

Eco Warriors/Eco Committee will consist of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. One child from each year group is elected by their peers. The Eco Warriors aim to meet each half term to discuss ideas and campaigns. Minutes from each meeting are to be recorded by the Eco Schools Coordinator and ideas fed back to the rest of the school and the wider community. Pupil 'Eco warriors' are responsible for :

- Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and address any problems.
- Promoting a litter free environment to other pupils
- Monitor each classroom break times and lunchtimes to check that lights, taps and projectors are switched off.
- Monitor and review energy consumption
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school

Pupils are responsible for:

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible.
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running.
- Be responsible for keeping our classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy.
- Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging.
- Use the correct bins to ensure waste and paper are recycled correctly.

Curriculum and Learning

The National Curriculum 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.

At Jarrow Cross our Curriculum promotes the need for environmental sustainability through cross curricular teaching and learning, including outdoor learning including Forest School and the local community.

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum. Individual school curriculums will outline how the topics are embedded into the school's curriculum.

Food and Drink

Food and drink contributes not only to pupil well-being, but also to pupil learning and attainment as a whole. An unhealthy diet contributes to obesity and poor health, as well as poor concentration and performance. Processed foods with high levels of additives and preservatives, along with sweets and sugary drinks, are key factors contributing to this. By contrast, a school that procures fresh, locally-sourced, ethically-produced, healthy foodstuffs can reverse these effects, whilst also protecting the environment and improving pupils understanding of food and where it comes from.

At Jarrow Cross we will ensure to use locally sourced foods where possible, ensure staff and pupils recycle all food waste packaging using appropriate recycling bins. All paper milk straws are recycled.

Pupils are educated in choosing sustainable/reusable packaging for packed lunches as well as choosing local produce to help reduce our carbon footprint.

Waste and Recycling

At Jarrow Cross we aim to :

- Write and print on both sides of the paper whenever possible
- Use scrap paper
- Use reusable plastic pockets not laminate

- Each classroom and office will have a recycle waste point
- Each class will have a tray to reuse paper
- Display paper will be reused whenever possible
- Friends of Jarrow Cross will recycle book bags, PE uniforms, sports items and other unwanted items
- Recycle a range of materials - paper, food, batteries, pens, printer cartridges.
- Children are encouraged to treat resources and equipment with respect, item will be repaired whenever possible

Energy and Water

- Switch off lights when they are not in use.
- Keep blinds open and allow natural light into classrooms before turning on lights.
- The school has some automatic light sensors throughout the school.
- Keep outside doors closed in cold weather
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and installing 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.

Transport and Travel

The rising number of vehicles on the roads leads to congestion, increased road accidents and pollution. During term time cars on the school account for a measurable increase in pollutants such as carbon monoxide near schools. It also decreases pupils independent mobility, reduces their amount of daily exercise and detracts from their awareness of road safety. Walking and cycling offers a sustainable alternative, providing a valuable boost to pupil fitness levels, increasing pupil concentration and instilling positive habits for life.

At Jarrow Cross:

- Pupils will be taught 'Bikeability'

- Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, 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 the school.
- We will have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles.
- We recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, we will organise road safety lessons in PSHE.

Buildings and Grounds

A sustainable school, including buildings and grounds, provides an excellent teaching and learning resource for staff and pupils. Developing our grounds will help pupils learn about the natural world and sustainable living. At Jarrow Cross we aim to educate and inform our children about living sustainably through the use of:

- Forest School and Outdoor education as part of our school curriculum
- School grounds as an environmental classroom including the local nature reserves, wildlife areas.

The school will use the school grounds as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.

- School habitats are used by pupils to study flora and fauna and their habitats.
- The School should ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by pupils as well as provision to undertake exercise.
- Develop areas of biodiversity and a strategy to encourage wildlife within the School ground