



Environmental Education Policy Westgate Primary School

At Westgate Primary School we believe it is important for everyone to have awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which we live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to **reduce** the amount of materials and energy we use and waste we produce, **re-use and recycle** materials wherever possible and **respect** our neighbours and our environment.

A Reduce

Energy

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
- We will keep doors and windows shut in cold weather, and when air conditioning is being used.
- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- The Westgate Eco-team will audit the amount of energy used and report their findings to the school and to the governing body.
- The Westgate Eco-team will appoint class monitors to ensure these recommendations are carried out.
- We will set a target each year for reducing the amount of energy we use.
- We have LED lighting, which is more energy efficient and has reduced our electricity usage.
- We have photo-voltaic (solar) panels which generate electricity for school to use and to feed into the National Grid. We monitor our electricity generation as well as usage.

Paper

We will reduce the amount of paper we use in our classrooms by:-

- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date.
- Sending as much information to parents and carers electronically as possible.

Transport

- We will maintain a School Travel Plan which encourages families to reduce their car use for their journeys to and from school each week.
- We take part in the cycling proficiency scheme, Bikeability, to encourage safe cycling.
- All year groups have annual pedestrian or scooter training to promote sustainable school travel.
- Year 4 now walk to swimming and back in the summer term, thus reducing our bus usage.
- We provide scooter and bike racks at school for children and staff

Food

- School dinner systems reduce the amount of food waste at lunch times by allowing children to pre-order their meals each morning.

B Re-use

Stationery

- Paper will be re-used within the classroom. Each class has a box of partially used (scrap) paper that can be used again.
- Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.
- Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.
- Punch pockets, folders and files will all be reused wherever possible.

C Recycle

We continue to recycle a range of materials.

- Paper, cardboard, metal and plastic are all recycled in green waste bins.
- Printer ink cartridges are collected and placed into a labelled bin.
- Families can recycle textiles on a termly basis through Friends of Westgate's Rag Bag scheme.
- Food waste is recycled by collection on a weekly basis to generate electricity through an anaerobic processor.
- The Westgate Eco-team will continue to evaluate our recycling scheme and add to the materials for recycling when necessary.
- We will monitor the percentage of waste recycled and set a target for increasing recycling.

D Respect

- We will monitor litter in the school outdoor environment and encourage children and families to dispose of their litter responsibly.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils, staff and Governors all have an important role to play. The Eco-Team, made up of pupils from each year group Y1- Y6 and led by Ms Carpenter, are the driving force behind Westgate Primary School's work to reduce our impact on the environment. They will encourage all pupils and staff to do their bit and have the full support of the School Council.

Each half term there will be whole school assemblies which address the Eco-Schools themes, in order to raise awareness of Environmental issues and the actions we can take to improve school's sustainability. The Property Management & Health and Safety Committee of the Governing Body will make sure that the Eco-team are given the resources they need and will help the Eco-team to set targets and monitor progress.

Assessment

Westgate Primary School uses the Eco-Schools self-evaluation materials to identify targets and track our performance. This year we are working on the Bronze and Silver awards.

We will use the following sources of information to inform our assessments:

- Our annual surveys of parents, staff and pupils will include relevant sustainability questions
- Observation and monitoring of environmental behaviour across school by the Eco-Team
- Energy meter readings
- Waste billing

At Westgate Primary School we want to keep on improving our environmental performance. As such, this policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and we will report on our progress through school assemblies, newsletters and our website.

This policy was approved by the governing body on the date below and is subject to review on an annual basis.

Signed: _____ Designation: Head teacher

Signed: _____ Designation: Chair of governors/ sub-committee

Date: 06/02/2019