



**Hertford St Andrew C of E
School**

Sustainability Policy

2025-2027



1. Policy Statement

- St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Hertford, is committed to fostering a sustainable environment and educating our pupils to become responsible global citizens. We believe that caring for our planet is an integral part of our Christian values, reflecting our stewardship responsibilities over God's creation.
- We have developed a policy with longevity, recognising that some targets are ambitious and long-term aspirations.
- This policy outlines our commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of school life, including teaching and learning, school operations, and community engagement.

2. Aims and Objectives

- Aims:
 - To embed sustainability principles into the school's ethos and daily practices.
 - To educate pupils about environmental issues, sustainable living, and their role in creating a more sustainable future.
 - To minimise the school's environmental footprint.
 - To be a role model for sustainability within the local community.
 - To encourage children to be active stewards of their world and encourage them to reduce climate anxiety through actions.
- Objectives:
 - Reduce energy consumption where possible (electricity, gas)
 - Minimise waste production and maximise recycling.
 - Conserve water resources.
 - Promote sustainable travel to and from school.
 - Enhance biodiversity within the school grounds.
 - Integrate sustainability topics across the curriculum.
 - Encourage active participation from pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.

3. Areas of Focus and Actions

We will strive to carry out the following.

3.1. Teaching and Learning

- Curriculum Integration:
 - Incorporate environmental themes into subjects such as Science, Geography, and RE.
 - Using the school grounds (e.g., school grounds) as an outdoor classroom for sustainability lessons and where possible arrange visits to Panshanger or other local wildlife sites.
 - Exploring Christian teachings on creation care and stewardship.
- Pupil Engagement:

- Develop sustainability roles and responsibilities across the school.
- Organise "Eco-Days" or "Green Weeks" to promote awareness.
- Encourage pupil-led sustainability projects.

3.2. School Operations

- Energy:
 - Monitor energy usage and setting reduction targets.
 - Promote "switch off" campaigns for lights and equipment.
 - Replace lighting and appliances with energy efficient items as current stock comes to a natural working life span.
 - As a long-term goal on current infrastructure investigate retrofitting renewable energy sources where feasible (e.g., solar panels) and integrate into any new projects.
- Waste:
 - Implement comprehensive recycling scheme for paper, plastic, cardboard, food waste (composting), etc.
 - Reduce single-use plastics where possible (e.g., promoting reusable water bottles, lunchboxes).
 - Encourage "reduce, reuse, recycle" principles in all school activities including ideas for donating or repurposing unwanted items.
- Water:
 - Educate pupils on water conservation.
 - Check for and repairing leaks promptly.
 - Consider water-saving devices (e.g., hippos in cisterns, push taps where appropriate).
 - Collect rainwater for school ground use.
- Purchasing:
 - Prioritise environmentally friendly and ethically sourced products where feasible (e.g. use seasonal food where possible at breakfast club and communicate with HCL about food sustainability).
 - Consider above in conjunction with product life cycles and durability.
- Grounds and Biodiversity:
 - Maintain and enhancing wildlife habitats within the school grounds (e.g., bug hotels, native planting, wetter areas for frogs etc).
 - Minimise pesticide and herbicide use.
 - Develop a school garden for growing fruits and vegetables.
- Transport:
 - Promote walking, cycling to school (e.g., "Walk to School Week," cycle storage).
 - Encourage car-sharing where possible.
 - Educate on the environmental impact of different transport methods.

3.3. Community Engagement

- Parents and Carers:

- Communicate the school's sustainability initiatives through newsletters, website, and parent meetings.
- Encourage parental involvement in school eco-projects.
- Local Community:
 - Collaborate with local environmental groups or organisations in Hertford.
 - Participate in local clean-up initiatives.
 - Share best practices with other local schools.
- Church Community:
 - Highlight the school's sustainability efforts with support from the St Andrew's Church community and resources such as the Diocese Heart for the Earth (see link below) to reinforce shared Christian values.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team: Overall responsibility for policy implementation and resourcing.
- Establish an Eco-Coordinator/Lead Teacher: Championing sustainability, coordinating initiatives, and monitoring progress.
- Staff: Integrate sustainability into teaching, modelling sustainable behaviours, and supporting school initiatives.
- Pupils: Actively participate in eco-activities, suggesting new ideas, and promoting sustainable practices among peers and at home.
- Governors: Oversee the policy, ensuring its effectiveness, and providing strategic direction.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

- Monitoring:
 - Regularly track key metrics (e.g., energy bills, waste audits, recycling rates).
 - Annual assessment of curriculum coverage for sustainability.
- Evaluation:
 - Annual review of the policy's effectiveness in achieving its aims and objectives.
 - Feedback from pupils, staff, and parents.
- Review:
 - This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher/senior management or nominated lead and Governing Body, or sooner if significant legislative changes or opportunities arise.

6. Links to Other School Policies

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Purchasing Policy
- Collective Worship Policy

7. Links to Key Resources

The following links provides resources that includes information, actions and resources for schools and school business managers (including funding sources) etc.

1. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/sustainable-hertfordshire/sustainability-guide-for-schools.aspx>

This resource includes the following topics which we will use to support our actions:

- Climate change
- Clean air
- Enhancing nature
- Water
- Energy and emissions
- Recycling

2. <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/schools/heart-for-the-earth>

Heart for the Earth is school based resource that encourages church schools to reflect on theological and practical issues of climate change. It includes topics such as:

- The use of electricity
- Water
- Ecology
- The sun and CO₂
- Birdlife and land animals
- Citizenship

