



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

'We believe that God has created each person to celebrate *life to the full*'



St. Aidan's Catholic Academy Environmental Policy

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development'. Laudato Si'



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Foreword

Our policy is guided by the Department for Education and inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical. We are committed to working towards meeting the needs of all our neighbours by protecting our habitats and providing our generations to come with opportunities to develop better schools, better communities, and better futures in Christ.

As a Catholic community we believe that every person is created in the image of God and their life is worthy of intrinsic dignity. The effects of the environmental crisis we are all dealing with globally plays a huge role in the overall health of human beings as well as living conditions. Ignoring this would be disregarding the dignity of a human person. Therefore, it is our collective moral obligation to enhance human health and well-being by preventing the impact of climate change and improving the lives of all our neighbours within our local and global community.

The book of Genesis beautifully depicts our responsibility as stewards of the Earth. Our attitudes towards the environment and how we put them into practice have a direct impact on God's creation, including the world's most vulnerable species and their habitats. As an academy, we must protect God's precious creation by promoting an eco-friendly mindset in order to provide better futures for our generations to come, so that they too can enjoy God's gift and thrive to fulfil their God-given purpose. Education is key in enabling this to happen. To have better schools, better communities and better futures in Christ we must allow nature to thrive as well.

Philosophy

The aim of this policy is to provide appropriate guidance for all members of the academy in taking individual as well as collective responsibility for the environment. As a Catholic academy, it is our duty to develop and embed a sustainable whole school approach to meet our three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **Good Health and Well-being**
- **Climate Change**
- **Reduce Hunger/Poverty.**

By working as a community as well as alongside local authorities and the British Council, we aim to focus specifically on providing high quality education regarding the current environmental crisis and its impact, reduce waste and explore the impact of consumerism. By doing so, we can actively and truly practise the belief that 'God has created each person to celebrate life to the full' (John 10:10).



Intent

- To inspire our young people to drive change
- To incorporate our core values of Hard Work, Trust and Fairness in our attitudes towards the environment and the work we do with regards to it
- To work alongside other organisations/local authorities to promote positive change
- To raise awareness among staff and pupils about environmental issues including climate change
- To make a positive impact on the community's waste management and consumerism
- To improve the recycling systems already put in place within the academy
- To remove the use of single-use plastics across the academy
- To offer efficient waste management solution to wider community
- To work towards sustainability, particularly through the development of the academy's allotment

Implementation

Classroom Teacher Responsibility

- Lights should be switched off and not left on when leaving the classroom
- Future resources for display boards should not be laminated and any unwanted paper must be appropriately recycled; no more laminating pouches or plastic wallets should be purchased
- All computers should be switched off at the end of the day
- Only paper and cardboard should be placed in the recycling boxes; pupils must use the black bins for any other rubbish and the recycling bins should be kept clean; classroom teachers must ensure no other rubbish goes in the recycling bins
- Pupils should not start a new page in their class book unnecessarily; teachers should challenge this and promote a responsible use of paper- pupils can rule off to indicate a new topic instead of leaving a page
- All assessments should be completed in class books and not printed unless necessary
- If plastic folders are used for assessment they should be reused if in good condition and a new sticker should be provided; they should not be binned
- Cardboard assessment folders should be considered for the next academic year
- When printing worksheets, only the black and white function should be used unless colour is necessary; teachers should plan in advance how many copies of worksheets are needed to avoid unnecessary waste (where the information can be displayed on the board/Teams, printing should be avoided)
- Projectors should be off when not in use



Departmental Responsibility

- Pupils in year 7-9 should have opportunities to make links between the curriculum and the environment; our SDGs are **Good Health and Well-being, Climate Change and Reduce Hunger/ Poverty** and we are specifically focusing on **education, waste reduction and consumerism**; the departmental lessons for your subject could reflect these issues
- All departments should review their impact on the environment, specifically their waste and recycling (this can be done once in each cycle based on data from reprographics regarding printing and departmental time should be used to conduct this)
- An audit should be carried out at the end of cycle 3 before an order is placed for the next academic year to avoid purchasing items unnecessarily, e.g. rulers, folders etc.

Catering

- Catering staff and staff on duty during dinner and break time should ensure pupils use correct bins in order to improve recycling; a behaviour point should be given to pupils who persistently misuse the recycling bins
- One bin should be dedicated for food only- this will be weighed and reviewed by the well-being group
- A container should be provided in both halls for collecting crisp packets, which are cleaned by the well-being group to recycle and reuse
- Fresh fruit and salad should be offered to pupils at dinner time- this should be free of charge
- Plastic cutlery must not be used at all- this includes during afterschool events
- Suppliers should be contacted to arrange products to be delivered free of plastic, where possible, for example fruit and vegetables should come without packaging
- A display of nutritional information should be clearly visible- this should include calories each meal
- One day a week should be nominated to provide meat free meals
- Where possible, products such as sandwiches should not include packaging
- Sauce and condiment sachets should not be in use- instead, refillable bottles should be provided

Enrichment

- Well-being group will continue to collect and prepare crisp packets which will be turned into survival items for the homeless community and those in need
- Well-bring group will attend regular litter-picking sessions at Backhouse Park
- Well-being group will deliver regular assemblies which explore environmental issues and ways in which as a community we can look after the environment and our well-being



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- Well-being group will work with outside agencies/local authority/businesses to raise awareness of the environmental crisis and promote change
- Well-being group will analyse the quantity of waste produced from food and feedback on this in school assemblies
- Well-being group will work on the academy's allotment to grow fresh and healthy produce for the school as well as the local community
- St. Aidan's stewards will conduct litter-picking at break time
- St. Aidan's stewards will weigh food waste every day

Pupils

- Pupils must not use single-use plastic bottles
- Pupils should place used crisp packets in appropriate bins
- Pupils should be open to donate and reuse uniform when appropriate
- Pupils should switch lights off in toilets after use and ensure that they don't waste water
- Pupils should bring unwanted items listed by Red Sky Foundation as donations to support the charity as well as to tackle consumerism and reduce waste
- Pupils should be committed to environmentalism and support the academy's intentions to promote our three Sustainable Development Goals

Pastoral Team Responsibility

- A scheme for families to swap, donate and exchange second hand uniforms should be created within the school community and offered to those in need
- A 'stewardship' section should be added to class charts to promote environmentalism- points could be awarded for litter picking, donating a uniform, walking/cycling to school etc.
- Where possible, paper letters should be avoided and communication with parents should consist of emails and other forms of technology

Whole Staff Responsibility

- Anti-litter attitude should be embedded across the academy and behaviour points should be given to persistent offenders; equally, positive points should be awarded to those who actively act as stewards within the academy
- No plastic bottles should be permitted in the academy- this includes staff and pupils and individuals should be challenged if disposable plastic bottles are on site
- Light should be switched off in the staff toilets after use
- Light should be switched off in departmental offices when not in use
- Staff should award pupils positive points for 'stewardship' through classcharts to promote environmentalism



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- Staff are encouraged to tackle consumerism by donating and reusing clothes- a clothes rack can be found in the staffroom where staff can exchange clothing and shoes
- Staff should bring unwanted items to be donated to Red Sky Foundation to tackle consumerism and reduce waste
- Staff should be committed to growing produce in their classrooms when possible with the guidance from the well-being group
- All staff must commit to making a positive change in our community

Leadership Responsibility

- Leadership should review the current suppliers and explore purchasing environmentally friendly products/refillable containers- this includes cleaning products and books from forest friendly companies/recycled paper
- A water station should be available in various areas of the school to completely remove the use of plastic bottles
- An audit of the amount of energy used should be conducted each cycle
- Staff policies and documentation should be provided to staff online where possible, e.g. safeguarding policies, documentation from the Trust
- The policy should be reviewed once a year to explore its strengths and areas for improvement
- The policy should be shared with staff, pupils and parents through the school website

Impact

- A whole staff and a student survey to be completed regularly. Data should be compared to identify its impact and future improvements
- Evidence of waste reduction should be clear across the academy- this should include paper waste from printing and food waste (data to be collected from reprographics and catering, analysed and compared to identify future improvements)
- A comparison of energy used should be conducted from before the implementation of the policy and throughout
- Recycling should be increased and improved across the academy
- Evidence from classcharts should be used to analyse positive and negative points issued for stewardship and littering/plastic bottles
- The academy's social media platforms/newsletters should demonstrate the positive impact of the policy
- Assemblies delivered by the well-being group should consist of regular updates on the effectiveness of the policy and any particular achievements/changes
- Evidence of fewer plastic bottles should be clear- this can be taken from classcharts



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- Evidence of work towards obtaining a plastic-free award and the eco-school award should be demonstrated
- Relevant members of staff will attend training on how to become an eco-friendly school
- Staff and students should understand how to make sustainable and renewable choices in their daily life and their actions across the academy should demonstrate this.