



## St Columb Minor Academy Eco Policy

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<b>Approved</b> (date of meeting)	Local Advisory Board July 2022
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<b>Statutory or Optional policy</b>	Optional
<b>Appendices</b>	No



## Eco-Policy for St Columb Minor Academy

### Intent

In St Columb Minor Academy, we intend to provide environmental and sustainable education that supports our pupils to have an in-depth understanding of what is happening in the world around them and the positive actions that they can take to improve this. We aim for our children to become conscientious, responsible citizens who value their environment and make morally justifiable choices. We aim to do this whilst ensuring we are supporting the children to develop an optimistic outlook on the future.

With this in mind, our Eco-policy, educational planning and actions are built around our school's core values that we teach to the children:

**Moral Values – tolerance, respect and integrity.**

**Intellectual Values – curiosity, focus and conscientiousness.**

**Performance Values – aspiration, ambition, resilience, motivation and optimism.**

**Civic Values – community and team work.**

### Implementation

We will plan to teach children about the effects of climate change with honesty, respect and integrity whilst giving them the opportunities to understand and participate in positive eco-activities. The positivity of our actions aim to show the pupils how we can improve the planet for the future, in turn developing our pupils' eco-resilience.

We can show our **moral values**, by respecting the environment and the creatures that live in it by:

- Creating green spaces, gardens and wild areas in the school grounds that enable biodiversity to flourish.
- Learning about the importance of different habitats and ecosystems in the environment.
- Disposing of our rubbish appropriately and picking up any litter in the school grounds, as well as participating in the school's regular litter picks.
- Reducing the amount of single-use plastic used in the school.
- The school will also organise community beach cleans for families to attend voluntarily to enhance the environment in our local area.

We can show **intellectual values**, by developing our curiosity and understanding of the environment, climate change and sustainability by:

- Learning about global issues, such as climate change and its effects on the planet.
- Participating in positive actions, to counter this, such as recycling materials, reusing items, gardening and the creation of green spaces.



- Learning about renewable and non-renewable energy and exploring the types of renewable energy that we have in the school grounds.
- Asking challenging questions.

We can show **Performance Values**, by working collaboratively and exploring possible solutions by,

- Exploring our environment through fieldwork, before discussing, problem-solving and identifying how we might make further improvements to our grounds.
- Feeding back our ideas to the senior leadership team at school, to make real changes.
- Identifying how our local area could be improved and challenging our local government to support us with these improvements.

We can show **Civic Values**, by coming together and working as a team by,

- Using a whole-school, positive action-based approach to teach environmental and sustainable education.
- Providing information to all stakeholders on our environmental work and offering them tips to be eco-friendly at home.
- Supporting the community with local litter picks.
- Everyone has a voice and every class will have two eco-warriors who will listen to the ideas from their class and share this at the eco-council meetings.

### **Impact**

The aim for the impact of this work is to create a whole school approach that can develop global citizens with a deep understanding of what is happening in our world and the positive actions that they can take to help improve it. This would support the development of future generations who understand the importance of their actions for the whole planet.

By providing the children with an understanding of the global issues whilst also enabling them to enjoy the positive actions that they can take, we hope to support our pupils to become eco-resilient and optimistic for the future.

### **Inclusion**

We aim to provide all pupils with the opportunities, regardless of race, gender, culture or disability, to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment and become responsible, caring citizens.

### **Awards**

St Columb Minor Academy has achieved the Eco School Green Flag Award for a number of years. This award enables the school to assess our positive actions and areas in which we can improve. We can then create an action plan for each year, selecting three specific areas to develop. These actions mainly involve direct actions, such as gardening, creating wild

areas or implementing new recycling systems. Alongside the direct actions, we hope to create indirect actions, such as developing the children's understanding of the need for green spaces and the use of renewable energy. We are currently applying for the green flag with a distinction.

We have also applied to become a Plastic Free School with Surfers Against Sewage. This award involves the children challenging government and industry to support us in reducing the use of plastic. As well as this, we aim to reduce the single-use plastic we use in school. Currently, we have banned and replaced the plastic items below:

- Single-use plastic cups, replaced with reusable plastic cups that can be washed.
- Single-use plastic cutlery, replaced with wooden or reusable metal cutlery.
- Clingfilm replaced with greaseproof paper and tin foil.
- Plastic glitter is banned in school.
- Plastic straws, if needed these are replaced with cardboard straws.
- We are reducing laminating to only be used when items are needed to last for a long period of time and be reused each year.
- We aim to source reusable water bottles to sell at cost to support families with this expense.

### **Eco-Lead**

The role of the Eco-Lead:

- To engage in continuing professional development.
- To update the Eco-Policy.
- To support the eco-council in discussions and decisions for the school.
- To apply for the Eco awards the school is working towards.
- To keep staff informed on new actions and development.
- To provide staff training when necessary.
- To involve outside agencies.
- To plan and prepare for whole eco days, such as Earth Day.

