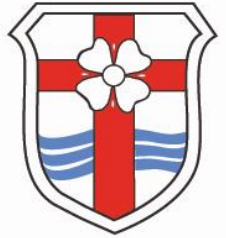


ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Sustainability Policy

(School Policy)

Ownership: Health and Safety

Document Date: Summer 2025

Review Date: Summer 2026

Pupils in St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School are happy, confident and very proud of their school. They clearly understand their mission statement, 'Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him.' They can quote scripture to give examples of how they do their best to follow Jesus every day. Pupils explain that if they ever feel worried about something they are confident that adults will help them in a discreet and caring way. They are fully aware of their responsibilities towards the more vulnerable members of society and can reference Catholic social teaching when discussing their work with the local foodbank.

Catholic Schools Inspectorate October 2024

Pupils enjoy school. They respond well to the high expectations of staff. Pupils strive to do their best and achieve well. Pupils are extremely kind and caring. They frequently give up their free time to help each other. Lessons are free from disruption and lunchtimes are a buzz of happy and harmonious play.

Ofsted May 2024

At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him

St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience. We encourage both pupils and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment. Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'

This policy also has due regard to the following guidance:

- Data Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Home and School Agreement
- Health and Safety Policy

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.
- Preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach pupils about environmental concerns.
- 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 Site Manager understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.
- Identifying, with the Site Manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this, such as installing motion sensor lights.
- Checking the environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.
- Ensuring equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.

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 are turned off when not in use.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and nonrecyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow.
- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the Governing Body.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.
- Arranging and coordinating waste disposal from the premises and ensuring that all waste is disposed of correctly.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Electing an Eco-Committee to support and promote sustainability within the school
- 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.

Parents are responsible for:

- Promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle at home.
- Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, when possible.
- Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle.
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

Waste and recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- Using emails and school's messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Requesting that HCL dispose of food waste in line with the school's Sustainability Policy at all times.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets or use chrome books.
- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.

The school will ensure that there are sinks with drinking water available for pupils to drink from and refill their water bottles. Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles. Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled. There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.

The school will display posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.

Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

WEEE is regulated to reduce the number of devices and equipment that is incinerated or sent to landfill sites. To reduce the school's carbon footprint and minimise the impact on global warming, the necessary steps are taken to ensure WEEE is disposed of properly. The

types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) the school will safely dispose of include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Desktop computers
- Servers
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Printers
- Projectors
- Scanners
- Interactive whiteboards

The Headteacher, in collaboration with the ICT technician, will find a suitable local partner, e.g. a producer of EEE that manufactures and sells EEE under their own brand, to dispose of WEEE safely.

The Headteacher will contact the LA for more information and guidance, where necessary. Before choosing a partner to dispose of WEEE, the ICT technician and DPO review the potential partner's risk assessments and procedures to determine whether the school's WEEE and any data stored will be handled and disposed of correctly.

Once a partner is selected and WEEE is ready to be removed from the school, the school Business Manager along with the ICT technician will undertake a risk assessment in collaboration with the partner to ensure all EEE is removed safely and securely from the school.

WEEE which hold personal data, or data the school needs to fulfil legal obligations, e.g. relating to safeguarding, are reviewed by the DPO to ensure the data is no longer needed or has been backed-up. Data is securely deleted or backed-up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. It also understands that fines may be incurred where individuals deliberately litter the premises.

Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly. Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in the appropriate bin, e.g. recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting the Site Manager and Eco Committee with the cleanliness of the premises.

The school will appoint an Eco Committee consisting of staff members and pupils, who are responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school.
- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listening and responding to questions from the school committee.
- Organising and recruiting volunteers for litter picking groups.

School Grounds

The Governing Body and the Site Manager will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, e.g. introducing motion sensitive lights.

The Site Manager will monitor heating within the school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly.

Healthy Living

The school will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment.

The school will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that each individual has on the environment.

The school will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle, for example, walking instead of driving.

The school will ensure pupils get at least 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day, in line with NHS recommendations.

Sustainable farming

The school will teach pupils where food comes from as part of the PSHE lessons. School meals will be designed by HCL with due regard to seasonal produce and locally sourced food. Where possible, HCL will approach local food suppliers for their produce to be used in school meals.

Energy

The school will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- 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.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the Site Manager.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- Implementing reward systems for staff and pupils who comply with the school's energy saving ethos – to raise awareness and prevent wasteful energy usage.
- Displaying information around the school and in classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.
- The school will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight.

Reducing carbon emissions

The school is committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing renewable technologies that export surplus energy to the national grid.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

The school will communicate with our LA and other schools to enhance our provisions and continue to develop and implement best practice within the school.

Curriculum

The school will aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum including but not limited to the following:

Science:

- Pupils will be taught about how animal extinction can impact ecosystems.

- Pupils will be taught about how deforestation and loss of habitat can impact species.

Geography:

- Pupils will engage in discussions about windmills and other sustainable energy sources, outlining the advantages and disadvantages.
- Pupils will be given case studies to analyse, such as looking into the effectiveness of sea defences.

English:

- Pupils will be given nature poetry to read, assessing how the environment is depicted and the implications of these depictions.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and the Governing Body.