



Aboyne Lodge School Sustainability Policy

Date: March 2021

Review: March 2024

OVERVIEW

Through the teaching of Sustainability at Aboyne Lodge, we aim to:

- ✓ **Provide education about Sustainability for all children in school, irrespective of gender, ability or ethnicity**
- ✓ Stimulate pupils' interest in the environment, sustainability, biodiversity and climate change.
- ✓ Encourage pupils to examine and interpret the environment from a variety of perspectives - physical, geographical, biological, sociological, economic, political, technological, historical, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual.
- ✓ Make pupils aware of their carbon footprint and the way this impacts our planet.
- ✓ Provide cross curricular opportunities for learning about the environment and sustainability.
- ✓ Develop in our pupils the knowledge, understanding and skills that they will need to make sense of environmental issues.
- ✓ Develop pupils' awareness that there are more sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax – the carbon footprint of Aboyne Lodge and its community. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce sustainability and environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal are: to **reduce** the amount of materials we use and the waste we produce; **recycle** and **re-use** materials wherever possible; **restore** what is deemed to have been destroyed; **respect** our neighbours and our environment; and take **responsibility** the choices we make and how these impact on the environment.

Reduce

Energy

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
- We will keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.

- The eco-committee will appoint class monitors to ensure these recommendations are carried out.

Paper

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

- Using Google Classroom for homework where possible, to reduce printing burden.
- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Reducing the amount of printing and photocopying we do wherever possible.
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date.
- Using email and electronic messaging service where possible to inform parents.
- Each class has and uses labelled 'scrap paper' tray and paper recycling bin.

Food waste

- We encourage the children to eat their fruit snacks and all their food at lunchtime.

Transport

- We will continue to encourage children to walk to school or use an economical form of transport.
- We will continue to offer the Bikeability scheme to the older children to encourage safe cycling.
- We will encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.

Re-use

Gardening

- Gardening waste will be put into the school compost bins.

Donated materials

- We will aim to find uses for donated materials.
- Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.

Paper

- Paper will be re-used within the classroom. Each class will have a box of partially used paper ('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.

Recycle

Fruit

- Fruit snack waste can be put into class caddies and then put onto the school compost heap.
- Waste from fruit consumed on the playground will be put into the red outdoor food bin and sent for recycling.

The school recycles a range of materials:

- Paper is collected in boxes in every class room and office area.
- There are clearly labelled bins in the staffroom indicating the everyday materials which can be recycled.

- Dining room waste is split into food waste and 'other'; the food waste is collected by Veolia and recycled.
- Children are encouraged to take their packed lunch waste home for sorting and recycling.
- Cartridges from computer ink and photocopiers will be collected in a labelled bin.
- The eco committee has set up and arranged collection boxes for batteries.
- The eco committee has set up and arranged collection boxes for pens and biro (to be taken to Ryman for recycling).
- The eco committee also have a collection box for crisp packets, which are sent for recycling under the TerraCycle scheme.
- ALSA run the Bags2School scheme which helps raise money for the school and makes use of unwanted textiles.
- ALSA regularly hold uniform sales to encourage the recycling of pupil uniform.

The eco-club will continue to evaluate our recycling scheme and add to the materials for recycling where possible.

Restore

We have a wildlife pond area for children to investigate and explore living things and their habitats.

- Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
- Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will be restored to its original condition as far as possible.
- Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

Respect

- Our first and most important school rule of Sustainability is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
- We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.
- We will respect the school building, its contents and the school grounds – this is **our** environment and we want to look after it.

Responsibility

- We aim to learn to take responsibility for our words, thoughts and actions, and to think about how these impact on our local environment, wider community and our world.
- In everything we do, we should think about our carbon footprint and whether we are benefitting our environment and the natural world.

Outdoor Environment

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. They are an external environment to which all children have regular access, and for some children, they might provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment.

We will need to reinstate our external areas at Aboyne Lodge, following the building works (2020-21). We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play. We hope to develop all of our key stage outside areas and believe our outdoor environment provides the following benefits to the children's learning:

- Enriches all areas of the curriculum, particularly Science by providing a unique and varied context for learning; stimulates motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- Affords opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility.

The school hopes to plant more trees/hedging (space allowing) and we have a pond area set aside to wildlife, planting and growing.

National Curriculum

Sustainability and Environmental Education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 in Science, Geography and PSHE. At Aboyne Lodge Primary School and Nursery, Sustainability and Environmental Education is not taught in isolation, but is linked to all areas of the primary curriculum, for example; Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, Art, D&T, Music, History, PSHE, Drama and PE.

Early Years Statement

During the Foundation Stage, children will engage in activities that:

- Encourage exploration and observation of the local environment.
- Encourage problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking.
- Encourage children to think and respond to what they see, touch, smell and feel in the local environment.
- Explore the visual elements in natural and man-made objects including resources from their locality and different cultures.

Health and Safety

All activities will be conducted in accordance with the current Health and Safety Policy. For further information, please see Health and Safety Policy.

ICT Links

As Sustainability and Environmental Education is a cross-curricular subject, there are many opportunities to use ICT.

Role of the Sustainability Subject Leader

The Subject Leader's role is to:

- Understanding the requirements of the subject.
- Preparing policy documents and providing ideas to support learning in the curriculum areas which link to Sustainability and the Environment.
- Encouraging staff to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils, to develop valid activities appropriate for children at different stages of development.

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