

Redwood Primary School Sustainability and Eco Policy



Policy review dates and changes

Review Date	By Whom	Summary of Changes Made	Date Ratified by Governors/Trustees	Date Implemented
September 2026	Eco Leader and Senior Leadership Team	New Sustainability and Eco Policy		

Redwood Primary School Sustainability and Eco Policy

Introduction

At Redwood Primary School, we are committed to educating pupils about caring for and respecting the environment while developing responsible citizens who can make informed decisions that positively impact their local, national and global communities. We believe that sustainability is everyone's responsibility and that schools have an important role in preparing children to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Through our curriculum, daily practices, school environment and partnerships with the wider community, we aim to foster environmental awareness, encourage positive action and reduce our environmental impact.

Vision and Statement of Intent

Our vision is to bring the whole school community together under a shared commitment to:

- Protect and improve our environment.
- Develop environmentally responsible attitudes and behaviours.
- Increase opportunities for climate and sustainability education.
- Encourage access to nature and outdoor learning.
- Improve biodiversity within the school grounds.
- Promote sustainable practices in everyday school life.
- Reduce our ecological footprint.
- Work towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

We will achieve this through a whole-school approach involving pupils, staff, governors, parents, carers and the wider community. Our Eco-committee is made up of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. One child per class is nominated to be their class representative by peers or their teacher. The representative's role is to feedback any information from Eco meetings. Meetings are led by the Year 5 and 6 children with support from the Eco-Leader.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To develop a whole-school culture of environmental responsibility.
- To promote sustainability through all aspects of school life.
- To develop awareness of environmental and global citizenship issues.
- To encourage pupils to take active leadership roles.
- To develop pupils' decision-making, teamwork and leadership skills.
- To integrate sustainability into teaching and learning across the curriculum.
- To promote biodiversity and conservation.
- To encourage responsible use of resources including energy and water.
- To reduce waste and support recycling initiatives.

- To engage with parents, carers and the wider community in sustainability projects.
- To support pupils in becoming responsible and informed citizens.

Eco-Schools Programme

Redwood Primary School participates in the Eco-Schools Programme, an internationally recognised framework supporting environmental education and action.

The programme is based around seven key elements:

1. Eco Committee
2. Environmental Review
3. Action Plan
4. Curriculum Links
5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. Involving the Wider Community
7. Eco Code

The Eco Committee plays a central role in driving environmental initiatives and supporting continuous improvement throughout the school.

Key environmental themes may include:

- Litter
- Waste Reduction
- Recycling
- Energy Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Healthy Living
- School Grounds
- Biodiversity
- Transport
- Marine Conservation
- Global Citizenship
- Climate Change

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will:

- Have overall responsibility for implementation and review of this policy.
- Support and challenge environmental initiatives.
- Allocate resources where possible to support sustainability projects.
- Ensure sustainability is considered within strategic planning.
- Communicate environmental priorities to stakeholders.

Governors

Governors will:

- Review and approve the policy.
- Monitor progress and impact.
- Provide support and challenge regarding sustainability objectives.
- Ensure environmental considerations form part of school improvement planning.

Eco Leader

The Eco Leader will:

- Coordinate the Eco Committee.
- Review and update this policy.
- Lead applications for Eco-Schools and related awards.
- Support environmental action projects.
- Organise environmental awareness events and themed weeks.
- Maintain evidence of environmental achievements.
- Provide staff support and training where appropriate.
- Liaise with external organisations.
- Ensure regular Eco Committee meetings take place.
- Support pupils in carrying out agreed action plans.

Site Manager

The Site Manager will:

- Support efficient energy and water use.
- Monitor environmental performance where possible.
- Maintain school grounds to encourage biodiversity.
- Ensure environmentally responsible disposal of waste.
- Support outdoor learning environments.
- Prioritise sustainable materials during maintenance works where feasible.

Staff

All staff will:

- Promote environmental awareness.
- Embed sustainability into teaching and learning where appropriate.
- Support school-wide initiatives.
- Model environmentally responsible behaviour.
- Encourage pupils to participate in sustainability activities.

The Eco Committee

The Eco Committee is made up of pupil representatives from across the school.

Members will:

- Represent their classes.
- Attend meetings regularly.
- Share information with classmates.
- Lead and support sustainability projects.
- Promote environmental awareness.
- Gather ideas and feedback from pupils.
- Help monitor progress towards environmental targets.
- Develop and review the school's Eco Code.

Older pupils may chair meetings with support from the Eco Leader.

Curriculum and Learning

Redwood Primary School recognises that sustainability education should be embedded throughout the curriculum.

We will:

- Identify opportunities to teach sustainability across all subjects.
- Develop understanding of climate change and environmental issues.
- Promote outdoor learning experiences.
- Use school grounds as a learning environment where possible.
- Encourage practical environmental action.
- Participate in environmental awareness events and national campaigns.
- Support pupils in understanding the relationship between local and global environmental issues.
- Promote green careers and future opportunities in sustainability where age appropriate.

Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of race, gender, disability, culture, religion, background or need, will have equal opportunities to participate in environmental learning and sustainability projects.

The school is committed to promoting equality, inclusion and accessibility in all environmental initiatives.

Waste and Recycling

We are committed to reducing waste and promoting a circular economy.

We will:

- Provide clearly labelled recycling and waste bins.
- Teach pupils about waste reduction and recycling.
- Reduce paper use where possible.
- Encourage double-sided printing.
- Reuse materials wherever practical.
- Promote digital communication where appropriate.

- Support the use of reusable water bottles.
- Explore opportunities for second-hand uniform and equipment schemes.
- Encourage responsible purchasing and resource management.

Energy and Water Conservation

The school recognises the importance of reducing consumption and conserving resources.

Energy

We will:

- Encourage switching off lights, computers and equipment when not in use.
- Promote energy-saving behaviours among staff and pupils.
- Monitor energy consumption where possible.
- Display reminders and educational materials around the school.
- Explore opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and renewable technologies.

Water

We will:

- Encourage responsible water use.
- Display reminders about water conservation.
- Monitor water usage where feasible.
- Address leaks promptly.
- Consider sustainable water-saving measures and infrastructure improvements when opportunities arise.

Food and Healthy Living

We will support sustainable and healthy choices by:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Encouraging understanding of sustainable food production.
- Supporting local, seasonal and responsibly sourced food where possible.
- Reducing food waste.
- Encouraging pupils to understand the environmental impact of food choices.

Transport and Travel

We will encourage more sustainable travel wherever possible.

We will:

- Promote walking, cycling and scooting to school.
- Encourage car sharing where appropriate.
- Support sustainable travel initiatives.
- Consider environmental impacts when planning educational visits.
- Encourage awareness of transport-related carbon emissions.

Buildings and Grounds

We are committed to creating environmentally friendly learning environments.

We will:

- Promote biodiversity across the school site.
- Protect and enhance existing habitats.
- Create opportunities for wildlife-friendly spaces, including no-mow sites across the school grounds.
- Identify areas suitable for outdoor learning.
- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals where appropriate.
- Ensure adequate recycling facilities are available across the school.
- Encourage pupil involvement in developing and maintaining school grounds.

Community Engagement

Redwood Primary School recognises the importance of involving the wider community.

We will:

- Share information about environmental projects and achievements.
- Encourage participation from parents and carers.
- Work with local partners and organisations.
- Promote sustainability events and campaigns.
- Celebrate environmental successes with the wider community.

Health and Safety

All sustainability and environmental activities will be undertaken in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Appropriate risk assessments will be completed where required.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Eco Committee meetings.
- Environmental reviews and audits.
- Action plans and progress evaluations.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Feedback from staff and the wider community.
- Reports to governors.

The policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required by changes in legislation, guidance or school priorities.

Eco Code

Redwood Primary School Eco Code:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Save Energy and Water

Protect Nature and Wildlife

Respect Our Environment

Work Together for a Sustainable Future

Policy Review Date: September 2029