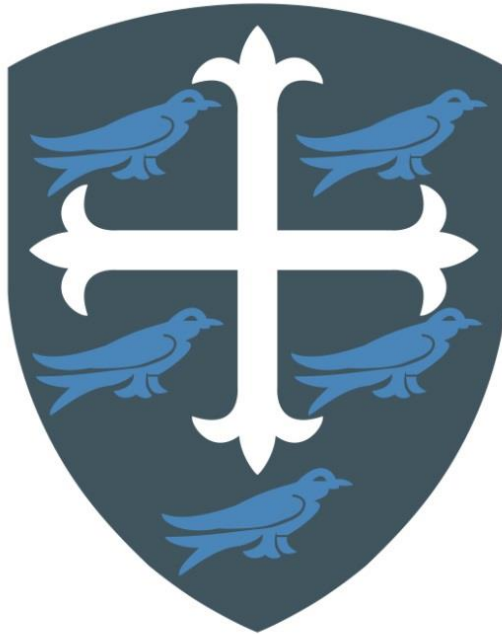


St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Sustainability Policy

Legal Status:	Non-Statutory
Review date:	February 2025
Next Review:	September 2026
Responsible Person:	Governing Body

Mission Statement

"The family of St Mary's strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person."

Introduction

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility in our school community. As a Catholic institution, we recognise our duty to care for God's creation and ensure that our actions reflect this commitment.

Aims

- To integrate sustainable practices into our daily operations and curriculum.
- To reduce the school's carbon footprint and environmental impact.
- To instil a sense of environmental stewardship in students, staff, and the wider community to take care of our common home.

Objectives

1. Curriculum Integration

Objective: To ensure that sustainability is embedded within the curriculum and enhances the educational experience.

- **Curriculum Delivery:** Sustainability topics will be integrated into science, geography, and religious education, focusing on issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and the Catholic Church's teaching on care for creation.
- **Project-Based Learning:** Students will engage in project-based learning that addresses real-world sustainability issues, such as recycling initiatives and energy conservation efforts.
- **Outdoor Learning:** Emphasize outdoor learning experiences to foster a connection with nature through activities like gardening, nature walks, and field studies.

2. School Environment

Objective: To create a sustainable school environment that reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship.

- **Waste Management:** Implement a rigorous waste management system, including recycling for paper, plastics, and food waste, and promoting a 'no single-use plastic' policy within the school.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Conduct regular audits of energy usage, install energy-efficient lighting, and educate the school community on conserving energy.
- **School Gardens:** Develop school gardens that support biodiversity, serve as outdoor classrooms, and provide fresh produce for school meals.

3. Community Engagement

Objective: To engage parents, local community members, and other stakeholders in sustainable practices.

- **Workshops and Training:** Organise workshops for parents and the community on sustainability topics, including composting, gardening, and energy conservation.
- **Partnerships:** Build partnerships with local environmental organisations to provide students with opportunities to participate in community clean-up events and conservation projects.
- **Communication:** Regularly communicate sustainability initiatives and achievements through newsletters, social media, and community events.

4. Staff Training and Development

Objective: To ensure all staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to promote sustainability.

- **Professional Development:** Provide training opportunities for staff on sustainability education, curriculum integration, and practical approaches to fostering a sustainable school environment.
- **Role Modelling:** Encourage staff to model sustainable practices, such as reducing waste and conserving energy in their classrooms.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: To assess the impact of our sustainability initiatives and drive continuous improvement.

- **Data Collection:** Regularly collect data on energy consumption, waste reduction, and student engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Gather feedback from students, staff, and the community on sustainability practices and policies to identify areas for improvement.
- **Annual Review:** Conduct an annual review of the sustainability policy, updating it as necessary to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

Our climate change committee consists of:

- Head teacher
- School Business Manager
- Curriculum Lead
- Sustainability Lead
- SENCO
- Site Manager
- Y6 eco-warriors

Implementation

- The Head teacher will oversee the implementation of this policy, supported by the sustainability team.
- Regular audits will be conducted to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.
- Annual reports on sustainability initiatives will be shared with the school community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Review the sustainability policy annually and update as necessary.
- Gather feedback from staff, students, and the community to improve practices

According to the most recent framework by Ofsted, schools are expected to:

- Promote personal development, behaviour, and welfare through a clear moral framework, which includes respect for the environment and a commitment to sustainability.
- Develop an ambitious curriculum that prepares students for their future roles as responsible citizens. This includes integrating concepts of sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Foster a positive school culture that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, with sustainability forming a core aspect of students' learning experiences.
- Demonstrate effective governance and leadership in promoting school improvement initiatives, including sustainability practices that benefit both the school community and the wider environment.
- By adhering to these expectations, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School aims to achieve outstanding outcomes for our pupils while fostering a sustainable future.

Conclusion

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is dedicated to being a leader in sustainability. By working together, we can create a more sustainable future for our students and the community.