



Our City, Our World

a whole school, whole city approach to sustainability, climate change and environmental education in Brighton & Hove schools

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Sustainability, climate Change and Environmental Education Strategy and Plan
2021-2023



We are at a unique state in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to our planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about that. Surely we all have a responsibility to care for our Blue Planet? The future of humanity and, indeed, all life on earth now depends on us.'

David Attenborough



Table of Contents

- Foreword
- Introduction and Ambition
- Aims and Objectives
- Implementation
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Framework and Priority Areas
- Environmental Education
- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- Travel and Transport
- Procurement and Third Parties
- Food and Catering
- Energy and Carbon Management
- Community Engagement
- Buildings and Construction
- Water Management
- Waste Management 1



Foreword

As a school committed to the Brighton and Hove Sustainability, Environmental and Climate Change Education Strategy—Our City, Our World, we are determined to take positive action to tackle the negative effects of climate change. We have prioritised this strategy as a core element in our School Improvement Plan and are working hard to embed environmental sustainability into our curriculum, our thinking and our actions and thereby our culture. Our Strategy Group composed of all key representatives from our community including the Head and nominated governor will develop and lead on the strategy but will ensure all members of our community, particularly our pupils, will have a voice within it and clearly recognise our joint responsibility for addressing this environmental crisis.

We have a central role to play in educating our pupils, staff and families about the importance of environmental sustainability. We want our school community to have a clear understanding of the current global issues and to embrace the proposed solutions. By mobilising our pupils with the requisite knowledge, skills and desire to affect positive change, we also hope that the younger generation will become the creative problem-solvers and change-makers of the future.



In addition to our role as educators, we must lead by example and are committed to achieving outstanding environmental performance. In order to fulfil our ambition, we are currently going through a process of audit, review and consultation. We recognise that we need to understand and address our biggest environmental impacts and then build a clear strategy to maximise the opportunities for improvement in these and other areas.

This Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental Education Strategy Plan is a clear statement of our intent to respond to current environmental issues and the global warming crisis. Over the next two years, our aim is to develop and implement an ambitious and forward-looking strategy that leads to an effective carbon management and significant carbon reduction programme.

Without doubt, we are excited by our environmental sustainability vision and call upon all members of our School community to support us in achieving our aims. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s report (Oct 2022) stressed the need for us to curb our carbon emissions by at least 49% by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Following its declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' (2018), our own authority, Brighton and Hove, has committed to being carbon neutral by 2030.

As a school, we are determined to be part of the solution and we feel optimistic about joining the fight to build a better future for us all and our planet.



School Framework for Action



As well as raising awareness of environmental issues, we seek to achieve outstanding environmental performance in the way that the school is run. By limiting the negative impact of our institution on the environment - and by taking responsibility for and, where possible, mitigating the impact of its operation - we aim to implement effective sustainability practice. Above all, we recognise that it is vital for us to reduce our carbon footprint and work towards becoming carbon neutral.

By seeking to improve the quality of our school and local environment - and by promoting the benefits of increased interaction with the natural world - we intend to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our school and its wider community.

By raising levels of sustainability literacy, we will educate our staff and pupils (and their families) about our individual and collective responsibilities.

Through a planned integrated curriculum of progressive learning opportunities, including outdoor education, we will strive to re-balance the growing disconnect between people and the environment: we want our pupils to enjoy and appreciate the natural world but we also want them to understand the current impact of human behaviour on our planet. Armed with knowledge, we hope that all members of our community will be inspired to take positive action by adopting 'greener' more sustainable practices.

Our young people will learn to care for themselves, to care for others and to care for the environment

It is also vital for us to create a sense of hope about the future; therefore, we will place positive messaging at the fore of our environmental action. We want our community to understand that living in a lower carbon, less polluted world will bring a host of advantages: cleaner, greener cities; improved public transport; better insulated houses; greater energy options; a potential reduction in consumerism; exciting innovation; healthier diets etc. In addition, we want our pupils to learn about innovation in green technologies and environmental careers in fields as diverse as science, social science, journalism, and the creative industries.

This work will be a priority in the School Development Plan (SDP) and a termly item on the FGB Agenda.



Implementation

The Head is ultimately responsible to the Governing Body for setting the Environmental Sustainability Agenda and guiding the school towards successfully achieving its two principal sustainability objectives:

- Effective sustainability and environmental education
- Positive and impactful sustainability practice

The Head will establish a sustainability strategy group made up of key representatives of the school community. The Head will attend termly Steering Group Meetings for the Our City, Our World programme.

The **Governor**, with lead responsibility for Sustainability, will attend the strategy group meetings and monitor the impact of the action plan. S/he will feed back regularly to the FGB.

The **SBM** will be responsible for leading positive and impactful sustainability practice in the day to day operation of the budget and buildings.

The **Site Manager** will be responsible for implementing positive and impactful sustainability practice in the day to day management of the buildings.



Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

As with our staff, we expect our pupils to act in a way that demonstrates concern for the environment and shows a commitment to sustainable living. Through our integrated environmental education programme, we seek to inspire our pupils to be reflective and pro-active sustainability champions. In addition, we hope that some of our pupils will pursue careers in the green technologies, becoming innovators and creative problem solvers of the future.

Our Staff

We expect all staff to be positive environmental role models. By encouraging our staff to reflect upon their personal and professional practices, we want them to support our environmental agenda and to make positive changes wherever possible e.g. minimising the wasteful use of resources; using water bottles and reusable cups; eliminating single-use plastics; reducing paper usage in printing and photocopying; using public transport or sharing lifts or walking or cycling to work.

Parents/Carers

We are engaging with our parents in two key ways: firstly, by encouraging parents to adopt effective sustainable practice e.g. by improving the air quality in the vicinity of the School by not dropping off/picking up their children by car; secondly, by drawing on the expertise of environmental experts within this important community.

The Local Community

In partnership with the Council, we will work collaboratively with our local community to ensure that we develop meaningful relationships and implement actions that will have a positive impact on the local environment. Wherever possible, we aim to add capacity to existing community initiatives and to share best practice with - and learn from - our partner schools and external organisations.



Environmental Education



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
<p>To elevate Environmental Education as a priority area for students' education, with the same level of importance as Safeguarding and Welfare, and Health and Safety</p>				

Biodiversity + the Natural Environment



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To improve the quality of our green spaces and biodiversity by limiting the negative impacts (and, where possible, by increasing positive impacts) on our natural environment , including opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ...2. ...3. ...			

Travel + Transport



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
<p>To provide viable and accessible sustainable travel options for staff and pupils for travel to work, travel at work and travel for work and education which results in a reduction of carbon emissions</p>	<p>1... 2... 3...</p>			

Procurement



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To identify and procure goods and services that are as sustainable as possible and, whenever practical, to influence positively the sustainability practices of suppliers	1... 2... 3...			

Food + Catering



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To improve the environmental impact of our food and catering systems	1... 2... 3...			

Energy



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To reduce our carbon emissions whilst supporting the school's plans for the investment in and modernisation of the Estate	1... 2... 3...			

Community Engagement



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To engage effectively with our School and local communities to achieve positive environmental action	1... 2... 3...			

Building + Construction



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To improve the environmental impact of our construction and refurbishment projects	1... 2... 3...			

Water Management



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To reduce overall water consumption and wastage	1... 2... 3...			

Waste Management



Overarching Aim	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
To minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, re-use and recycling, whilst moving towards a circular economy	1... 2... 3...			

“Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse.” Desmond Tutu 2014

“You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up is never an option.” Greta Thunberg 2021

