



# Environmental Strategy

Written: September 2023

To be reviewed: September 2026

The Pioneer Academy are 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 strategy 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.

This strategy has been developed with the following guidance in mind:

- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'
- Leedsdec 'Educating for a just and sustainable world'
- Eco-Schools Award '<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/primary-pathway/seven-steps/>'
- Our City, Our World '<https://www.ourcityourworld.co.uk/>'
- Solar for Schools '<https://www.solarforschools.co.uk/>'

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 strategy.
- 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 strategy.
- 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.
- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow.
- 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 School Business Manager 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.
- Ensuring the heating systems are monitored daily by the site manager to ensure the classrooms remain at a comfortable temperature of at least 18°C, but does not exceed 23°C.

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 and screens are turned off when not in use.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the School Business Manager.
- 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.
- Maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

Pupils are responsible for:

- 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.

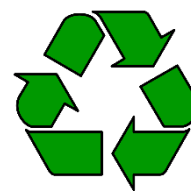
Parents are responsible for:

- 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, Using the school's website and parent text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- 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.
- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.



The school will ensure that there are water fountains 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 GDPR 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 school, in collaboration with the IT team, will find a suitable local partner to dispose of WEEE safely.

Before choosing a partner to dispose of WEEE, the DPO will 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 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 school 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-council who are responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school.
- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.

Teachers will encourage pupils to partake in litter picking around the school grounds.

To mitigate risks of littering, the school will implement the following procedures:

**[School to list any procedures you implement to promote anti-littering]**

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The school will raise awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters.



## Transport

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.

The school will consider organising a 'walking bus', where pupils will be asked to convene at a specified location and then walk to school, accompanied by teachers. The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school when possible, will be promoted throughout the school.

The school will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.

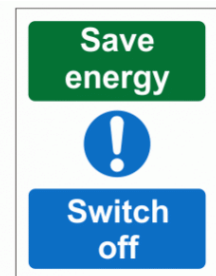
The school will produce informative material, such as posters and leaflets, regarding the impact of the carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles and public transport on the environment, which will be displayed and distributed around the school. The school will have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles.

The school will recognise that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, road safety lessons will be organised in PSHE.

## School grounds

The school business manager 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.

Energy saving lightbulbs will be used throughout the school.



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

When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, the school will always consider any environmental impacts and the Trust board will consult an expert.



## 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 and fishing



The school will teach pupils where food comes from as part of the PSHE lessons, including giving them first-hand experience of growing their own fruit or vegetables. Teaching staff will organise educational visits to food suppliers and producers to aid pupils' understanding as to where food comes from.

School meals will be designed with due regard to seasonal produce and locally sourced food. Where possible, the school will approach local food suppliers for their produce to be used in school meals. Pupils will be taught about the importance of sustainable fishing and farming, and any fish products used in school meals will be sustainably sourced.

## 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 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.
- Upgrading the school's heating system to a modern, more efficient system, including a smart meter, to reduce emissions.
- Switching to high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) (HE CHP) or CHP based on renewable energy sources, or gas-fired CHP only.
- Increasing the share of electricity from renewable energy sources or biomass.
- 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.
- Appointing an individual, e.g. the site manager, to ensure that these measures are carried out.
- Work with Solar for Schools to install solar panels where possible

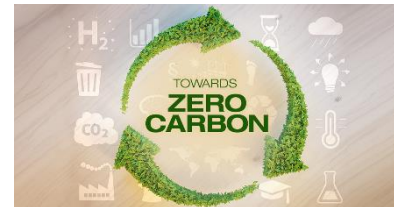
The school will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight.

## 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.
- Implementing a rewards system for pupils and/or staff who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- 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 publish a climate strategy action plan (appendix 1) on the school website so that parents and other stakeholders can be informed of our current ethos towards reducing carbon emissions.

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.

## Sustainable procurement of goods



green procurement

The school will devote our time to ensuring all product procurement is done in the most sustainable way. The school business manager will be responsible for creating an inventory of current stock and ensuring that orders are not processed with unnecessary purchases listed on them.

The catering company will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient, sourced from within the UK where possible and bought from a company with an energy efficient ethos.

The school will avoid buying branded products where quality is not compromised and will obtain contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying particular regard to pricing, quality and their returns policy.

### Paper

The school is committed to:

- Purchasing paper that is 100 percent recycled and eco-certified.
- Purchasing paper that is produced through a process of low energy consumption and emissions.
- Avoiding certain substances in paper production, e.g. bleach.

- Purchasing paper based on recycled paper or paper based on sustainability harvested virgin fibre.
- Ensuring that manufacturers state 'ecological responsibility' wherever possible.
- Ensuring that paper is, at a minimum, Elementary Chlorine Free (ECF) or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).

### **Lighting**

The school is committed to:

- Using lighting controls to reduce energy consumption.
- Replacing light bulbs with low energy alternatives.
- At the installation stage, ensuring the system works energy efficiently.
- Recycling all waste products appropriately.

### **Office equipment**

The school is committed to:

- Buying energy efficient models.
- Buying products which have a low impact on the environment through their life cycle.
- Buying recyclable products with a long lifespan and recyclable packaging.
- Buying products with a restricted amount of hazardous material.
- Buying products with restricted noise emissions.

### **Furniture**

The school is committed to:

- Buying furniture that is produced with environmentally friendly material and processes.
- Using materials which are partly or wholly made from recycled/renewable materials.
- Making sure that all furniture purchased is repairable and recyclable.
- Purchasing timber from legal and sustainable managed forests.
- Ensuring that packaging material is based on renewable raw materials and can be suitably recycled.
- Avoiding possibly hazardous substances in both production and surface treatment.

### **Food and catering**

The school and catering company is committed to:

- Purchasing organic food or food from partly organic sources.
- Purchasing livestock products with high welfare standards.
- Purchasing seasonal products.
- Purchasing marine products which are sustainably produced.
- Making sure the cutlery, crockery, tablecloths and glassware used are recyclable.
- Purchasing locally produced products and promoting local purchasing to parents.
- Making sure the kitchen appliances procured are water and energy efficient.



## Cleaning products

The school and cleaning company is committed to:

- Using products produced in the UK.
- Using the recommended amounts of products and minimising use where possible.
- Using products which can be used at lower temperatures.
- Minimising the use of hazardous chemicals in cleaning and dishwashing products.
- Avoiding phosphorous and limiting biocides.
- Making sure that packaging made from recyclable materials is recycled.
- Purchasing sprays without propellants.
- Ensuring that no substances in products are identified as 'volatile organic compounds'.

## Gardening products

The grounds maintenance team is committed to:

- Buying peat-free products.
- Buying products which come in packages which are compostable, recyclable or biodegradable.
- Buying organically produced plants.
- Using alternative methods of pest control to pesticides.
- Using low-noise, low-emission and low-consumption machinery.

## Textiles

The school is committed to:

- Buying materials with an EU organic logo or the international gold standard for organic textiles.
- Buying fair trade textiles.
- Ensuring that clothes or materials purchased contain natural fibres or organic cotton.
- Buying textiles with lower residues of substances harmful to human health.
- Buying textiles with a reduced use of environmentally harmful substances in production.
- Buying textiles/materials that can be reused or which have been previously used.
- Reusing purchased items, e.g. uniforms, ties, and school bags.

## Curriculum

The school will work with Our City, Our World with the aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum.



### Climate Strategy Action Plan

Action Area	Key Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring	Success Criteria
<b>Greening the Curriculum</b>				
To change the context of the current curriculum to place it in a more climate change/sustainability context				
To elevate environmental education as a priority				
<b>Becoming Net Zero</b>				
To improve the quality of our green spaces and biodiversity				
To provide viable and accessible sustainable travel options to staff and pupils				
To identify and procure good and services that are as sustainable as possible				
To improve the environmental impact of our food and catering systems				
To reduce our carbon emissions whilst supporting our school's plans for investment and modernisation of the estate				

To improve the environmental impact of our construction and refurbishment projects				
To reduce overall water consumption and wastage				
To minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, reusage and recycling				
<b>Connection to Nature</b>				
To find purposeful and effective ways of connecting learning with the outdoors/nature				
<b>Climate Action</b>				
To engage effectively with our school and local community to achieve positive environmental action				
To provide opportunities for pupils to take action				