



**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**



RainhillSixth

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY





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STATUS	NON-STATUTORY
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVAL DATE	27/03/2023
RENEWAL DATE	27/03/2026



SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP

STEPHENSON

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Statement of Intent

Rainhill High School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. Our school value of “Everyone learns, thinks, contributes and cares” applies to our efforts to look after the environment. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle and work towards reducing our carbon footprint.

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 policy 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.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) ‘Top tips for sustainability in schools’
- DfE Policy Paper – Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children’s services systems (2022)

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher and Chief Operating Officer are responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that staff CPD plans cover sustainability, e.g. including climate change and sustainability in science teachers’ CPD, and providing sustainable usage training for all staff.
- Review every subject policy by the end of the 24/25 academic year with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education.
- Work with premises and school business staff to look at where to invest money to reduce carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and resilience, giving due regard to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and additional capital funding from the DfE for energy efficiency initiatives.
- Develop and deliver our school’s climate action plan by the end of 2025.
- Communicate the Sustainability Policy to the school community.
- Ensuring that assemblies are delivered on green careers and skills in action.
- Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.
- 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.
- Lead a whole-school sustainability audit to identify new and future opportunities for change.
- Identify areas in the grounds that can be used for natural spaces – promoting biodiversity on the school site.
- Ensuring that the Student Environmental Committee are supported and developed to bring greater awareness to other students and help deliver meaningful projects with tangible benefits.

The Academy 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, with the Site Manager and our energy

partners (e.g. Zenergi and the DfE).

- Ensuring, where possible, that equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.
- 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 purchases are cost efficient and sourced from within the UK or locally where possible.
- Communicating with the catering provider to work towards minimizing packaging and waste and ensuring that any packaging used is made from biodegradable materials.
- Obtaining contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying particular regard to pricing, quality, and their returns policy.

The Sustainability Lead (Miss McSporrán) is responsible for –

- Leading and coordinating fortnightly meetings with the School Environmental Committee.
- Receiving carbon literacy training and co-ordinating delivery of this training to all staff.
- Encouraging whole-school participation in environmental awareness days.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Maintain verges around the school sports pitches as wild grassland areas to encourage biodiversity.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.
- Conduct energy and water usage audits at the end of every term and report any waste to the Chief Operating Officer/Academy Business Manager.

Trustees and Governors are Responsible for:

- Approving policies that have been reviewed with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education.
- Reviewing the environmental and sustainability Policy.
- Considering environmental impacts where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned.
- When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts and the Trust Board will consult an expert.

The school is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.
- Including and engaging staff, trustees, 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 policy.
- 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.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
- Carrying out a sustainability audit for their subject, identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world, sustainable practices and the circular economy.
- Identifying ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects, e.g. reducing printing.
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use.

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.
- Be responsible for keeping our classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy.
- Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging.
- Using the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste.

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.

Rainhill High School Environmental Committee

The Rainhill High School Environmental Committee consists of pupils from Years 7 to Year 11. The committee meets fortnightly to discuss ideas and campaigns. Ideas are fed back to the rest of the school and the wider community.

The Environmental Committee members are responsible for:

- Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and devising initiatives to address any identified problems.
- Promoting a litter free environment to other pupils.
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school.

Curriculum and Learning

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding in climate change and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum. We aim to review every subject policy by the end of the 24/25 academic year with an eye to sustainability. In addition, the school has a weekly gardening and zoology enrichment club to help pupils learn about nature outside the curriculum.

Food & Catering

The schools catering services are provided by Mellors Catering. Mellors Catering Service commit to using locally sourced foods which means fresher produce for our pupils as well as less contribution to CO2 through less driving. Mellors is accredited by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), for meeting the MSC standard for sustainable and well-managed fisheries. This means they only use fresh and frozen fish products certified by the MSC. Mellors have reduced the use of plastic packaging by replacing acetate with flow wrap, plastic boxes with cardboard sandwich boxes and plastic cutlery with wooden cutlery. Mellors provide opportunities for our students through the use of pop ups such as Vegan Sop – these schemes reduce high-carbon food from our menus.

Waste and Recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Reducing paper waste by writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible and using email as much as possible.
- We employ a central printing badge release system which has removed the need for printers in every office and has reduced waste as staff are unable to delete unwanted printing at the machine, prior to it being printed.
- Using emails, the school's website and parent text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets.
- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.

- Staff will be encouraged to consider what materials can be reused for next year, when clearing out their classrooms at the end of a term or year.
- All students have been given a Rainhill High reusable water bottle to bring into school rather than using disposable single-use plastics. All Y7 intake students receive one. We have water fountains around the school where pupils can fill reusable water bottles up.
- There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.
- We 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 school's Data Protection Policy.
- Teachers will encourage pupils to partake in weekly litter picking around the school grounds.
- The school has a Uniform Bank for the recycling of school uniform and PE kits.

Transport

We will encourage and support sustainable transport use in our school community. We will do this by -

- Encouraging pupils to walk, cycle or use the school bus/public transport, where possible.
- The benefits of daily exercise, such as walking to school when possible, will be promoted throughout the school.
- We will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.
- We will produce informative material, such as posters, regarding the impact of the carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles on the environment, which will be displayed around the school.
- We have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles.
- We will liaise with feeder schools to agree guidance for new pupils on sustainable travel.

Littering

The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly.

Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in a bin.
- Using the appropriate recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting with the cleanliness of the premises.

The school raises awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as posters. Any individual known to have littered the premises will be required to dispose of the litter correctly.

The Site Manager takes overall responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises. The Site Manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

Energy

We will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather.
- 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.
- 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.
- We will display our Display Energy Certificate in the doorway of each building.

