



**St Edward's  
School**

Unity - Achievement - Faith

# Environment and Recycling Policy

**Reviewed and Approved by Business and Premises Committee**

**On: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Reviewed and Ratified at the St Edward's FGB**

**On: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Next Review date: Spring 2027**

**SLT are responsible for oversight of this policy's implementation**

## **Mission Statement**

### **MAY WE BE ONE**

In purpose – educating for life in all its fullness

In faith – encountering God who lives among us, calling us to unity

In dignity – nurturing confidence and maturity

In community – striving together for justice, love and peace

Our world is shared by all people, and St. Edward's school commits itself to doing as much as possible to protect our common home; as we strive together to ensure that resources are shared, the Earth is respected, and God's Kingdom of justice, love and peace, reigns.

### **Aims:**

The Environmental and Recycling policy aims to commit to integrating environmental best practice into all of our activities and to work towards this through a programme of continuous improvement.

This will be achieved by:

1. Building processes and procedures to integrate environmentally sustainable practices where possible
2. Staff and students to reduce the use of natural resources and to re-use and recycle as many school resources as possible.

### **Targets & Outcomes:**

- We will aim to adopt best practice and play a leading role in developing innovative solutions to environmental issues facing our community.
- We will conduct our activities in full knowledge of and compliance with environmental regulations.
- We will integrate environmental considerations and objectives into our planning and decisions.
- We will minimise consumption of natural resources and wastage of materials as far as practicable.
- Promote the use of sustainable forms of energy and seek to reduce our energy and CO2 footprint.

### **Processes Instigated:**

- Minimise the usage of paper by printing only when necessary and to print on both sides of each sheet. The Papercut software system is configured to ensure this is controlled and monitored. In 2019 we introduced charges for excess printing which has significantly decreased printing and wastage

- Be aware of environmental controls and ensure they are followed, these include: disposal of substances, aerosols and old ICT equipment
- Use of Ranger software for PC switch-off.
- Use of solar panels to generate electricity which reduces fuel costs and raises extra income from sale to the grid
- The Site Manager ensures the replacement of light bulbs by LED lights and service contracts are in place for heating and air handling systems across the school to ensure optimum efficiency and fuel reduction improving our carbon footprint.
- All catering packaging is now environmentally friendly and the catering team are continuing to review better options for fully recyclable packaging.

**Staff and students are encouraged to:**

- Dispose of items only when they have no further use for the original or another safe and reasonable purpose, with regard to resale where possible.
- Be aware of energy costs and take every opportunity to switch off lights and equipment when not in use.

**Continuous improvement**

We have completed various projects aimed at improving the school, the environment, and promoting recycling. These projects include:

- Replacing every light in the school with LED lights, which will reduce our electricity consumption and the need for additional lighting.
- Installing solar panels on our sports hall, which further reduces our energy consumption and generates our own power.
- Creating a wildlife pond area for the students and planting wildflowers to provide a habitat for wildlife and to also help with solitary Bees, which are non-harmful, and as they live alone they don't have a hive or a queen, so they pollinate every day.
- Establishing a forestry area for our students and wildlife, which has attracted a variety of animals and insects.
- Building a bird hut in the forestry area to facilitate bird watching for our students.
- Planning to plant an additional 400 trees, plants, and bushes around the school perimeter to enhance security and create more wildlife habitats.
- Running our Beekeeping club in the school, producing our honey, and helping the environment by assisting with the bee population and pollination.

Prior to the lockdown in March 2020, the school started working with local environmental charity Win on Waste to engage students and establish clearly measurable environmental and recycling objectives. This collaboration will be reinstated with effect from 2024.

In the short term the school continues to focus on:

- sustaining the reduction in printing volumes
- reversing the ratio of recycling to landfill waste
- moving towards 100% recyclable catering packaging