

Newfield School Sustainability Policy

RATIONALE:

Sustainable living is a way of thinking about how we organize our lives, work and education system so that we don't destroy our most precious resource - our planet. It is about helping people to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future or impacting unfairly on other people's lives. It is about reshaping the way we think about the future.

AIMS:

- To prepare young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through teaching, and example in day-to-day practices.
- To encourage care for oneself - our health and well-being
- To encourage care for each other - across cultures, distances and generations
- To encourage care for the environment - near and far

Whole school approach:

At Newfield School, we take a holistic approach to sustainability. It is not seen as something extra to tag onto the curriculum but rather an approach which underpins all that we do. It is embedded in our school vision; it is part of our school ethos and woven into all areas of teaching and learning. It is a way of thinking that we seek to share with all stakeholders and the local community. The principals for the framework we teach overlap with:

- Every Child Matters Agenda
- British Values
- The curriculum at all times aiming to promote equality and inclusion.

Caring for Oneself:

At Newfield School we put a high value on the well-being of our pupils and the school environment. The classrooms are welcoming, clean and interesting places

to learn. We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying which is reinforced by staffs who demonstrate fair, positive, caring, behaviour. Inclusion is integral to our approach to teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop high self-esteem and achieve good standards. Health and wellbeing are deemed to be high priority and the school has achieved its Healthy Schools' status. Pupils have many opportunities within the curriculum to take part in PE activities both within school and outside through arranged activities. All pupils take part in **SMSC** assemblies each week and have opportunities to discuss feeling, relationships and emotions.

At Newfield School Healthy Eating is promoted through curriculum work, assemblies and open days. We work with the kitchen staff to develop a range of different incentives to encourage pupils to eat a balanced meal and to try new foods. Newfield school council work with Kitchen Staff to enhance menu choice to suit pupils needs so there is less wastage and pupils gain an understanding of waste and compost. During the summer months' produce grown in the garden by the pupils, understanding a sustainable school and lifestyle. .

Caring for each other:

Pupils spend time through curriculum work and assemblies developing a sound understanding of interpersonal relationships. The small size of our school has enabled us to adopt a family model to caring for each other. Older pupils act as buddies and helpers to the younger pupils in school and on the playground. On some occasions, pupils have the opportunity to work across stages in mixed age groups.

There are many opportunities to develop Citizenship as pupils engage with the local community and other primary and secondary schools. We also seek to develop an understanding of global issues. To this end, the school has teachers who have visited India, Spain and Romania on TPD trips to share their expertise with schools abroad and return to school with new ideas and share experiences with pupils. Staff from schools visited in India also visited our school as part of programme, opening pupil's eyes to how resourceful schools outside the UK can be. Awareness of other countries and peoples is further developed through assemblies and charity work.

Caring for the environment:

The school is working towards a Green Flag Eco Award. The school has developed the school grounds to increase the **biodiversity and habitats** available for wildlife. We value the use of the outdoor classroom and make maximum use of our school grounds to enhance learning. Pupils enjoy Forest walks and trips to Freshfield and Crosby beaches to learn about the local environment. We seek to develop a passion and understanding for environmental issues. We work with local groups to develop this work e.g. The National Trust and Wildlife Trust.

Energy and Waste in the school are carefully monitored. Pupils are involved with recycling, composting and reading meters. Water butts are being installed to be used to conserve water and taps are checked regularly.

Curriculum work and assemblies develop knowledge of environmental issues such as Climate Change and pollution to help raise awareness of important global debates.

We believe that by fostering positive attitudes about sustainable issues and developing awareness and critical thinking skills in our pupils and the wider community, future generations will be better equipped to manage the challenges that lie ahead for our planet.

This policy will be reviewed Autumn 2027

Belinda Stone - Eco Council

Pupil Voice - Eco councillors