



# Sustainability Policy

**2026 - 2027**

## St John's C of E Middle School



This policy was reviewed and updated by Doug Owen, Assistant Headteacher at St John's C of E Middle School and is approved annually by the Local Governing Body.

Date: February 2026

Next Review Date: February 2027

In collaboration with



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## 1. Policy Statement

St John's Church of England Middle School is committed to caring for our environment by showing care and love for God's creation and embedding sustainability into all aspects of school life. Guided by our school vision and values, we aim to nurture and develop environmental responsibility and stewardship to build better understanding of our role in protecting the world for future generations.

This policy outlines how sustainability is embedded within teaching, learning, operations, and the wider school community. It reflects St John's local priorities and aligns with Trust expectations and national sustainability objectives.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils at St John's Church of England Middle School
- All teaching and support staff
- Governors and volunteers
- School operations including curriculum delivery, site management, procurement, and community engagement

## 3. Governance and Leadership

- The **Headteacher** has overall responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of this policy.

- A **Sustainability Lead** will coordinate sustainability initiatives and monitor progress.
- An **Eco Committee**, including pupil representatives, will support delivery and promote pupil voice.
- The **Local Governing Body** will receive updates through headteacher reports and review progress annually.

## 4. Strategic Priorities

### 4.1 Curriculum and Learning

- Sustainability and environmental education will be embedded across the curriculum.
- Pupils will engage in practical sustainability projects and outdoor learning.
- Opportunities will be provided for pupil leadership through Eco Committees and school initiatives.
- Learning will promote respect for the environment and understanding of climate responsibility.

### 4.2 Operations and Resource Management

#### Energy and Carbon

- Reduce energy usage across the school.
- Promote energy-efficient practices (lighting, heating, equipment use).
- Explore opportunities for renewable energy where feasible.

#### Waste and Recycling

- Maintain effective recycling systems across the school.
- Reduce the use of single-use plastics.
- Encourage responsible waste management through pupil-led initiatives.

#### Water

- Promote water conservation through awareness campaigns.
- Ensure efficient use of water across the site.

#### Procurement

- Prioritise environmentally responsible purchasing.
- Reduce waste through careful ordering and reuse of resources.
- Work with suppliers who demonstrate sustainable practices where possible.

#### Travel and Transport

- Encourage walking, cycling and sustainable travel to school.

- Promote safe and environmentally responsible travel choices.
- Support initiatives that reduce the school's carbon footprint.

### **4.3 Buildings and Grounds**

- Maintain school buildings in a way that supports energy efficiency.
- Develop green spaces and wildlife areas within the school grounds.
- Promote outdoor learning and environmental awareness.
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for caring for the school environment.

### **4.4 Partnerships and Community**

- Work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community to promote sustainability.
- Engage with local organisations and initiatives that support environmental education.
- Share good practice across the Trust and with partner schools.

## **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Sustainability actions will be reviewed annually.
- Progress will be monitored through audits, pupil voice, and staff feedback.
- The Sustainability Lead will report to senior leaders and governors.
- Targets will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued improvement.

## **6. Targets and Timescales**

### **Short-term (1–2 years):**

- Establish consistent sustainability practices across school operations.
- Increase pupil awareness and engagement.
- Reduce waste and energy use where possible.

### **Medium-term (3–5 years):**

- Embed sustainability into curriculum planning.
- Improve biodiversity on site.
- Strengthen community partnerships.

**Long-term:**

- Work towards significant reductions in environmental impact.
- Ensure sustainability is embedded in school culture and decision-making.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

**Local Governing Body**

- Provide strategic oversight and challenge.

**Headteacher**

- Ensure effective implementation of the policy.

**Sustainability Lead**

- Coordinate initiatives and monitor progress.

**Staff**

- Embed sustainability into teaching and daily practice.

**Pupils**

- Act as sustainability ambassadors and contribute through Eco activities.

## **8. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required by changes in legislation, Trust policy, or school priorities.