

# **St. John's C of E (VA) Primary School Sustainability Policy**



**‘That all may Love, Learn, Flourish’**

Date: Summer 2023

Frequency of review: 2 years

Reviewed by: Premises and Expansion Committee

### **School vision**

That all may, Love, Learn, Flourish'. Anchored in God's love, we nurture our children to develop a love for learning whilst learning to love and respect others; celebrating the uniqueness that makes us all special. Every child is supported and valued, enabling them to grow in their faith and flourish.

### **Introduction**

Sustainable living is a way of thinking about how we organise 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. This policy works in conjunction with the Environmental policy.

### **Aims:**

- To prepare children at St. John's 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 – local and global.
- To be courageous advocates and promote sustainability to the wider community

### **Whole school approach:**

At St. John's C of E Primary, we take a holistic approach to sustainability. We are committed to caring for and protecting God's wonderful creation and ensuring that it is looked after for ourselves and the future generations. It is embedded in our school vision and forms the basis of our one school Golden Rule to "Love One Another", and this 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.

Our school vision is, 'That all may, Love, Learn, Flourish' which is an important key to the children's attitudes towards learning about sustainability, seeking to be more sustainable in our everyday lives, sharing with others the importance of being sustainable and ensuring we flourish in education and through our school grounds.

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.

### **Caring for oneself:**

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 strive to create an ethos of good behaviour where children treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. The Golden Rule permeates the whole school environment and creates respect for all staff and children. It also helps to develop a clear understanding of how our actions affect others. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and we aim to create an environment that prevents bullying.

Inclusion is integral to our approach to teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop high self-esteem and achieve good standards. Health and well being are deemed to be high priority. Pupils have many opportunities within the curriculum to take part in P.E and sporting activities and after school clubs provide a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year.

Each year we take part in the 'Great Big Green Week' and encourage looking after our school environment and the outside community to promote all to flourish.

Be Safe weeks take place at the beginning of each term when the whole school focusses on areas which will help to keep us all safe in different areas of our lives (such as road safety, sun safety, stranger danger etc).

Healthy Eating is promoted throughout the school and we work with our catering staff to develop a range of different incentives to encourage pupils to eat a balanced meal and to try new foods.

### **Caring for each other:**

Pupils spend time each week through curriculum work and assemblies developing a sound understanding of interpersonal relationships. The historically small size of our school has enabled us to adopt a family model of caring for each other. As we are now a full 2 form entry school, we are ensuring that this remains a core part of our school ethos. Older pupils act as Reading Mates and helpers to the younger pupils in school and in the playground. During the year we make opportunities for pupils to work across key stages in mixed age groups. These include regular Friendship Fridays and for special occasions such as enrichment weeks when children may work in House groups, consisting of mixed age range groups. Year 6 children play a key part in assisting with the settling process of the new Reception children every year by supporting them on arrival at the end of the school day and during lunchtimes and playtimes.

The school is keen to develop Citizenship as pupils engage with the local community and other primary and secondary schools e.g. exploring the Wilderness, St. John's and St. Mildred's churches as well as collecting for and visiting/collecting local food banks. We also seek to develop an understanding of global issues through our Contexts for Learning and where possible include thought provoking questions/issues which encourage children to think about how they are part of the wider world and the part they can play in it. We seek to encourage partnerships with charities both national and international which allow our children to understand their role in protecting and supporting those less fortunate than ourselves.

### **Caring for the environment:**

The school has sought to use its external space to fully engage the children in what the natural environment has to offer. As part of their curriculum, children undertake learning about environmental issues including the destruction of the rainforests; the polar ice caps melting; reducing, reusing and recycling etc. As part of their learning about life cycles children also have the opportunities to experience life cycles in their own classrooms (such as in the form of butterflies or chicks) and this helps them to understand their role in caring for other living beings and understanding how they can help to look after them. From Reception to Year 6, the children take care of the school grounds by planting, growing and ensuring rubbish is picked up through litter picking times.

The school recycles all paper waste and has ~~tried to help~~ limited the amount of paper we use by using email to communicate with staff/parents/carers. We are also committed to less food waste by ensuring the children make their food choices before it is cooked and recycling any food waste. We have a compost that is being used to produce are own soil to be used on the school grounds.

To reduce waste of single use plastic, children bring their own reusable water bottles to school daily and class cups are provided for those that don't.

When sourcing supplies and services, sustainability factors are considered within the remits of financial and practical constraints. Any existing suppliers will be challenged regarding unsustainable practices or resourcing issues.

We promote walking to school and children are encouraged to scoot or cycle to school and the school has ample space to store these in the school grounds. When we go on school visits where possible we take public transport.

Buildings and grounds:

As a school we aim to be carbon neutral by 2028. We want to provide an environment for children to be proud of what they achieved by the end of their time at St. John's. As a school we have fitted air source pumps, solar panels for electricity, solar thermals for heating, air sources pumps, LED light and planters to reduce rain water waste.