

Environmental Education Policy Mavisbank School

Sustainable development is essential to ensure quality of life without damaging the planet for the future. Mavisbank school community is acutely aware of its responsibility to promote and practise sustainable development and this approach is reflected in our school vision:

Care and respect for ourselves, others and the environment
Co-operation between school, home and community
Consistency and fairness in our values and expectations
Challenge and support for all to reach their potential

Eco strategies and goals are first discussed by the Eco Committee. The pupils have long lasting and complex additional support needs and therefore it is essential that Eco learning experiences are designed to be meaningful, relevant and inclusive. Communication aids, symbols and sensory stimuli are used to support this aim.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to **Reduce** the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, **Re-use** materials wherever possible, **Restore** what is deemed to have been destroyed and **Respect** our neighbours and our environment.

Reduce

Energy

We will switch off lights when they are not in use.

We will keep outside doors shut in cold weather.

We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.

Paper

We will reduce the amount of paper we use in our school by:-

Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.

Filing photocopies for use at a later date.

Where possible we will send information electronically.

In addition, each class will have a waste paper box to enable us to re-cycle our paper.

Re-use

Donated materials including containers

The school will try to find uses for donated materials. This may be to help with storage or for use in art.

Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.

Paper

Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.

Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.

Equipment

Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it.

Recycle

At Mavisbank School, we recycle a range of materials on a regular basis. We have various collection points situated throughout the school.

Paper is collected in green boxes in every class room and office area. This will be collected on a regular basis by pupils with janitorial support and placed in the NLC green paper recycling bins on site.

Aluminium cans will be collected and crushed for collection by Thinkcans.

Ink cartridges, toners and mobile phones will be collected in a labelled bin and sent off to Recyclool.

Old spectacles will be collected for World Vision

The eco-committee will continue to evaluate our recycling scheme and add to the materials for recycling when necessary.

Restore

School habitats such as the sensory garden are used by the children to experience flora and fauna and their habitat

Respect

Our first and most important school rule, for staff and pupils is that we will respect one another.

This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.

We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

Local Well-Being

Establish through engaging with parents, local businesses, schools and community groups, we will provide activities such as Eco Days, fund-raising events, raising awareness of sustainability issues.

Global Dimension

As a school, we participate in many activities linking the wider world such as The Shoe Box Appeal, Children of Nepal, Fairtrade.

We will continue to extend this ethos of sustainability throughout the school in our determination to move towards a healthier, safer and more inclusive society.

Assessment

Our school has gained its first Eco-school Green Flag Award as a result of some of the above endeavours.

Observation of particular children and around the school will be a good indication of the success of some of these strategies.

Events such as assemblies and the children's work will be another way of measuring the effectiveness of this policy.

An Eco Notice Board has been established in the school hall.

Eileen McDonnell February 2010

Reviewed: John Lochrie, Eileen McDonnell May 2010, Feb 2015

Date of next review: Feb 2018