

Environmental Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Title	CET Environmental Policy		
Version Number	002		
Status	Approved		
Publication Date	January 2025		
Policy Owner/Author	Head of Operations		
Review Date	January 2026		
Approved/Ratified by	Organisation Development Committee	Date: 22 January 2025	

Please note that a record of the changes made to the original issue of this document can be found at Schedule 1 after any Appendices to the Policy/Procedure.

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1. Statement of Intent

- 1.1 At Cumbria Education Trust (CET) we are committed to educating our students about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that students have the necessary skills and knowledge to understand environmental concerns, so that they can apply this to their lives and adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- 1.2 We encourage both students and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment.
- 1.3 Effective use of this policy will teach students about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2011
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- Paris Agreement 2015

2.2 This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Behaviour and Culture Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 CET schools are responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental awareness and sustainability.
- Engaging staff, Local Advisory Board (LAB) members, students, parents/carers and the local community on environmental matters relevant to the school and students.
- Sharing good practice with students, parents/carers, and the community, and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy.
- Promoting awareness of climate change and environmental issues through cross-curricular activities.
- Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practising policies which show concern and care for the environment.

3.2 The Headteacher of each school is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.

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- Ensuring that relevant staff have the necessary knowledge to teach students about environmental concerns.
- Ensuring that staff and students understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn off lights when not in use.
- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the potential for separate disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school might implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and students to follow.
- Ensuring that all staff understand their responsibility to procure with the environment in mind whenever possible.

3.3 The LAB who report to Trustees are responsible for:

- Reviewing the school's energy usage, identifying with the site manager energy waste, and taking steps to rectify this, such as installing motion sensor lights as and when funding allows.
- Ensuring equipment purchased is made where possible from sustainable resources, for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.
- Ensuring that heating and water management are efficient and cost effective.

3.4 Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in PSHE and at other appropriate junctures across the curriculum.
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy efficiently, for example, ensuring that computers are turned off when not in use.

3.5 The Site Manager/Site Assistant is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the Headteacher.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

3.6 Students are responsible for:

- Applying their learning both in and out of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible.
- Being environmentally and energy aware, for example, not leaving taps running.

3.7 Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Engaging with school community projects that raise awareness of environmental issues and sustainability where possible.
- Being a part of the schools' Environmental Policy where possible.

4. Waste and Recycling

4.1 We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper, wherever possible.

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- Using emails as much as possible to reduce paper waste.
- Using emails, the school's website, and parent text messaging procedures as much as possible when communicating with parents to reduce paper waste.
- Only printing documents when it is absolutely essential.
- Exploring whether composting of food, paper and plastic recycling are possible and affordable on each site.

4.2 We will ensure that there are water supplies available for students to drink from and to use water bottles.

4.3 Students will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.

4.4 We will not tolerate littering; anyone found to be littering will be challenged.

4.5 Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used or recycled and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

5. Transport

5.1 Students and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.

5.2 We will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.

5.3 We will encourage the use of technology to avoid travelling.

5.4 Future transport contracts will take into consideration carbon emissions and environmental impacts with an encouragement towards electric/hybrid fleets where possible.

6. School Grounds

6.1 The Site Manager/Site Assistant will monitor the consumption of energy within the school, identifying where the school might be wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption as refurbishment and funds allow e.g. LED lighting installation and motion sensor lights.

6.2 The Site Manager/Site Assistant will monitor heating within the school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly.

6.3 When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, we will always consider any environmental impacts.

7. Healthy Living

7.1 We will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Students will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment.

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7.2 We will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that each individual has on the environment.

8. Energy

8.1 We will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they are not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and installing draught excluders, so that warm air is retained.
- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors, and interactive whiteboards, when they are not in use.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the Site Manager/Site Assistant.
- Making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy usage and financial costs.

8.2 We will display our Display Energy Certificate in plain sight, for example, in the school foyer.

8.3 We will have an annual programme of energy efficiency projects funded from our capital allocation to promote efficient energy use and environmental responsibility.

9. Reducing Carbon Emissions

9.1 We are committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.
- Implementing renewable technologies that export surplus energy to the national grid where practicable.

10. Healthy Eating

10.1 All staff involved in procurement will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient and sourced from within the UK where possible.

10.2 We will commit to buying food and drink that has low 'food miles.'

10.3 We will commit to delivering reasonable meal choices that balances cost efficiency, sustainability, and healthy living.

11. Monitoring and Review

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11.1 This policy is renewed annually by the Head of Operations.

11.2 Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

11.3 All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy.

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SCHEDULE 1

DOCUMENT CONTROL – RECORD OF CHANGES

Version Number:	Publication Date:	Nature of, and Reason for, Change(s)
001	July 2021	Original
---	July 2022	Reviewed, no changes required.
---	January 2024	Reviewed, no changes required.
002	January 2025	Reviewed, updates to staffing.

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