



# ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Revision Date	Reviser	Previous Version	Description of Revision
04/11/2022	Alison Draper (Chief Finance Officer)	Version 1	New Trust policy created
04/11/2022	Bernie Green (CEO)	Version 1	New policy formally approved by the Trust CEO
07/12/22	Board of Directors	Version 1	New policy formally adopted by the Board Directors
02/01/24	Alison Draper (CFO)		Annual review- CFO job title updated, revision date adjusted to annually or when a new site acquired
31/01/24	Board of Directors		Revised policy formally approved by Directors
07/01/25	Alison Draper (CFO)		Annual Review – updated to include schools joining in 2024
22/01/25	Board of Directors		Revised policy formally approved by Directors

**This policy document will be formally reviewed annually or when a new site is acquired and shared with all staff.**

## **The Policy**

The Board Directors, Local Governing Bodies, Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams are fully committed to playing their part in achieving the Government's climate change targets, protecting biodiversity, and recognising any other areas in which it can further the Trust's and Government's environmental goals.

This policy document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, and related legislation and is issued for the direction, guidance and information of all employees, pupils, parents, service providers and members of the public to whom it may apply.

This policy document covers the following sites:

### **Preston C of E Primary School**

The Toose  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA213SN

### **Kingfisher Primary School**

Kingfisher Drive  
Houndstone  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA228FJ

### **Countess Gytha Primary School**

West Camel Road  
Queen Camel  
Somerset  
BA227LT

### **North Cadbury C of E Primary School**

Cary Road  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA227DE

### **Manor Court Community Primary School**

Duck Lane  
Chard  
Somerset  
TA202ES

### **Huish Episcopi Primary School**

North Street  
Langport  
Somerset  
TA109RW

### **Hambridge Primary School**

Hambridge

Langport  
Somerset  
TA100AZ

**Middlezoy Primary School**

Church Road  
Middlezoy  
Somerset  
TA70NZ

**Othery Primary School**

Othery  
Bridgwater  
Somerset  
TA70PX

**Pen Mill Infants and Nursery Academy**

St Michael's Avenue,  
Yeovil,  
Somerset,  
BA21 4LD

**Ash Church of England Primary School**

Main Street,  
Ash  
Somerset  
TA12 6NS

**Evercreech Church of England Primary School**

Paradise Crescent,  
Evercreech  
Shepton Mallet,  
Somerset,  
BA4 6EH

**Lovington Church of England Primary School**

Lovington,  
Castle Cary  
Somerset,  
BA7 7PX

This policy also applies to situations where employees are required to work, visit, or supervise activities on other sites.

## Statement of Intent

Every action that we take within Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT) is based on our key value of providing outstanding education and a safe and stimulating environment where every child can achieve.

Effective teaching and learning can take place best in a secure and healthy learning environment, where a culture of awareness, mutual care, consideration, and respect are nurtured and encouraged.

Ecological and environmental considerations must be on everybody's agendas.

As a public sector organisation, PPAT has a duty to play its part in achieving Government climate change targets, protecting biodiversity, and recognising any other areas in which it can further the Trusts and Government's environmental goals.

As a provider of education for young people, PPAT should be at the forefront of nurturing positive attitudes towards the environment and has a responsibility to ensure that it equips all its pupils with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution by improving its local area.

This policy sets out how PPAT will achieve this through environmentally orientated education and by providing a positive example of environmental responsibility in all its actions, whether those actions are directly related to education or not. PPAT is committed to the regular review and revision of this policy and to providing appropriate resources to ensure that the objectives of the policy can be achieved. This includes ensuring that all employees are provided with appropriate and adequate training and are confident in identifying issues and bringing them to the attention of the Trust.

Signed on behalf of the Trust:



Date: 04/11/22

Name: Bernie Green

Designation: Chief Executive Officer

## 1. Curriculum

1.1 In all PPAT schools it will be ensured that sustainability and environmental issues are addressed within the curriculum. When possible and appropriate the curriculum will be linked to environmental issues and opportunities will be taken to highlight the positive environmental actions of the school/PPAT.

1.2 Wherever possible, pupils will be involved in any environmental initiatives within their school and curriculums will include environmentally positive initiatives.

1.3 School Councils /Eco Councils will be used as forums to engage the 'pupil voice' in environmental and sustainability issues.

1.4 Where possible, school grounds (or other nearby and available outdoor spaces) will be used as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.

## **2. Litter and Waste**

2.1 Single sided paper will be re-used, photocopying will be double sided where possible, printing will be 'two pages to a sheet' where possible, and care will be taken to ensure that only essential pages are printed.

2.2 Agendas and documents for meetings will be circulated electronically, and only printed by request.

2.3 Where possible, the use of worksheets will be limited and/or relevant work will be put on interactive whiteboards (or equivalent presentation technology).

2.4 Where possible, frequently used documents will be laminated, especially when they are to be used outdoors. However, in order to reduce plastic use, laminating will not be carried out unnecessarily or wastefully.

2.5 All schools within PPAT will take positive steps to ensure waste such as plastics, paper, card, glass, and tin are recycled as a minimum through appropriate routes. Schools will ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place for recycling and that staff and pupils are trained appropriately on the use of these mechanisms. Wherever possible appropriate measures will also be put in place to recycle batteries, light bulbs, and printer cartridges.

2.6 All schools within PPAT will take positive steps to ensure all food waste is disposed of appropriately through the Somerset Waste Partnership Recycling collections. Schools will ensure that food provided is of excellent quality and volumes catered match the pupil take up.

2.7 All schools within PPAT will take positive steps to reduce the amount of waste produced. For example, by ensuring all classes have scrap paper trays and by establishing 'Eco Councils' to keep grounds free of litter by ensuring pupils and staff put rubbish into the appropriate bin.

2.8 Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect to ensure longevity.

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

2.10 Unwanted/discarded good condition uniform, including football boots, shoes, and trainers, will be collected, reused, and offered to the school community.

### **3. Plastics**

3.1 All pupils will be encouraged to use reusable water bottles.

3.2 Schools will attempt not to use or purchase plastic straws, cotton buds, disposable plastic cutlery, anything containing microbeads etc.

3.3 Schools will use refillable detergents, soaps etc. wherever possible.

3.4 Schools will not use single-use plastic carrier bags wherever possible.

### **4. Water**

4.1 Wherever possible, schools will collect rainwater for all onsite watering needs. Where collection is not currently possible, schools will look to invest in water collection facilities e.g., water butts.

4.2 Monthly water meter readings will be taken to enable prompt identification of any leaks. Any leaks identified will be addressed as soon as possible.

4.3 Staff and pupils will be made aware of the link between water use and the need to conserve water for environmental reasons. Staff and pupils will be encouraged not to act wastefully.

4.4 All new taps for pupil use will be of the type that shut-off automatically after a certain period (e.g., push taps). Taps not of this type will be replaced whenever budgets allow.

### **5. Energy Use**

5.1 All lights and electronic equipment in classrooms will be switched off before leaving the classroom.

5.2 All computers (with the exception of those that must be left on for a specific purpose) will be switched off when not in use.

5.3 Laminating machines and other high energy use equipment will be switched off when not in use.

5.4 Schools will invest, through their maintenance budgets or appropriate capital funds, in replacing traditional lighting with energy efficient LED lighting or equipment. When traditional lighting fixtures require replacement through breakdown, LED (or other highly efficient) replacement fixtures will be chosen.

5.5 All heating systems will be programmed, managed, and maintained to ensure maximum efficiency. Inefficient equipment will be replaced whenever economically viable.

5.6 Energy suppliers will be routinely reviewed, and renewable energy source providers will be sought where practicable and economic to do so.

5.7 Staff and pupils will be made aware of the link between energy use and financial cost to the school and of the need to conserve energy for environmental reasons. Staff and pupils will be encouraged not to act wastefully.

5.8 External doors will be kept shut in cold weather (unless held open for necessary ventilation reasons).

5.9 Schools will invest, through their maintenance budgets or appropriate capital funds, in installing appropriate energy saving measures such as increased insulation, double glazing, and draught exclusion.

5.10 Monthly meter readings will be taken to ensure schools are monitoring their energy use to ensure they are able to identify periods that may indicate an excessive usage.

## **6. Transport**

6.1 Adequate and safe facilities to encourage staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school will be provided and maintained.

6.2 Schools will ensure that an effective programme of road safety education is included within their curriculum, and that the positive health impacts from using active transport and negative health impacts from air pollution are taught.

6.3 Where the school owns or maintains any vehicles, mileage will be kept to a minimum and the most environmentally friendly purchasing choices will be made where economic to do so.

6.4 PPAT and school staff will minimise travel between schools and will not make unnecessary trips. Communication between schools will be via electronic means whenever possible, and Teams calls will be considered in place of face-to-face meetings where appropriate and feasible.

## **7. Purchasing and Procurement**

7.1 Wherever possible and considering the restrictions of the Finance Policy, schools and PPAT will procure goods and services from local suppliers.

7.2 Wherever possible, and considering the restrictions of the Finance Policy, schools and PPAT will purchase paper from sustainable sources.

7.3 Wherever possible and considering the restrictions of the Finance Policy, schools and PPAT will purchase wooden equipment from sustainable sources.

7.4 Wherever possible and considering the restrictions of the Finance Policy, schools and PPAT will purchase environmentally friendly cleaning products. Any cleaning products purchased must meet the required statutory requirements and ensure that the school is a clean, safe, and hygienic place for our children and staff.

7.5 PPAT and all schools will work with any contractors supplying goods or services (including catering contractors) to ensure that they are taking positive environmental measures including, wherever possible and applicable, the measures set out by this policy.

7.6 Wherever possible PPAT will support schools in offering Central procurement to ensure minimal wastage across the Trust.

## **8. The Outdoor Environment**

8.1 Available outdoor areas will be prioritised for use as recreational and exercise space for pupils.

8.2 Outdoor space will be well maintained and as 'tidy' as possible as it provides visitors with the first impression of the schools and will influence the attitude and behaviour of pupils.

8.3 Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.

8.4 Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will, if possible, be restored to its original condition

## **9. Monitoring and Review**

9.1 Each school will establish a pupil and staff 'Eco Council' (or similar), who will be involved in the continuing development of this policy (through review) and in its implementation within each school. The 'Eco Council' will recommend to the Headteacher/SLT action that should be taken to meet the policy's aims and, where possible, help to implement any such actions. The 'Eco Council' will appoint class monitors to ensure the policy is carried out.

9.2 Site Managers will:

- Record energy and water use and report any unusual increases to the Headteacher and Trust Health and Safety Compliance Officer
- Check that outside lights are not left on during the day unless required for safety or security
- Note lights and fuses that fail prematurely so that faults can be diagnosed.
- Monitor the heating and hot water systems so that they run at maximum efficiency. (Eighteen degrees centigrade is the recommended temperature for classrooms).
- Take steps to reduce water costs wherever possible.
- Monitor the cleaning staff and advise them on good energy practice.

9.3 The PPAT H&S Officer will monitor the performance of this policy and report any failings or areas for improvement to the Headteacher, CFO, and the Board of Trustees as appropriate.

9.4 This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.



