



**Environmental &
Sustainability Policy
2025-2026**

Document monitoring and evaluation

This policy has been officially adopted by the Governing Body.

Version History		
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Initially adopted	Sept 2025	Adopted by Governing Body

Approval & Authorisation			
	Name	Job title	Date
Approved by	Gary Hilton	Head Teacher	Sept 2025
Approved by	Douglas Watkin	Chair of Governors	Sept 2025
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Date of next review			Sept 2026



Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Overview

St Mary's School, Cambridge (the School) is committed to being a sustainable and environmentally friendly school. We aim to reduce our carbon footprint and to implement and pursue practices which will help to foster an awareness and understanding of the environment in both pupils and staff.

The School has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the world's resources wisely. Pupils are expected to demonstrate an active interest in and concern for all-natural environments and we hope to encourage each pupil to recognise her role intending to the future of the planet.

The way the School environment is managed and maintained should provide an example to pupils of how to respect and care for the environment. Wherever possible pupils and staff should be encouraged and expected to adopt sustainable practices.

Education for sustainable development should give pupils a greater understanding of both natural and human systems through a range of immediate environmental experiences that engage their senses, emotions and thinking. It should enable the School community to develop a life ethic that values all people and the natural environment. Ultimately it should ensure that each pupil understands and respects their environment, both inside and outside of school.

Specific Policy Aims

1. To minimise the procurement and use of non-renewable and environmentally unfriendly resources (which includes new builds and refurbishment of existing buildings) and encourage recycling throughout the whole school.
2. To raise awareness to pupils and staff about key environmental issues and by doing so encourage them to take an active role in environmental projects.
3. To develop relationships with external organisations to promote environmentally friendly behaviour both within and outside of school.

Inside the school buildings

Paper

- Staff are encouraged to use electronic devices or online resources where possible instead of paper.
- Staff are asked to keep their written documents to one or two sides of A4 wherever possible.
- Staff are asked to use double-sided photocopying wherever possible.
- Staff and pupils are asked to use the paper bins to recycle all paper.
- Staff and pupils are asked to ensure that both sides of paper are used before it is recycled. To this end, each classroom should contain a scrap paper box.
- Staff and pupils are asked not to print documents unless it is necessary.
- Staff, pupils, and parents are asked to use e-mail wherever possible avoiding copying paper, to colleagues, pupils or parents.
- Paper use is monitored via a monthly print management report.

Computers

- Staff and pupils are asked to ensure that all computers, screens, printers, and projectors are turned off after their last use of the day. Teacher/pupils in period 6 have a responsibility to ensure that the computer in their classroom is switched off.
- Non-essential computers will be automatically shut down at 7pm.

Lighting

- Staff and pupils are asked to turn off lights whenever they are not being used.
- Where possible LED and/or movement sensitive lights will be installed.

Water

- Water use to be monitored.
- Make pupils aware of the link between water use and financial cost.
- Establish and raise awareness of simple actions that can cut down on water use substantially.

Energy

- Energy consumption to be monitored.
- Make all members of the school community aware of the link between energy use and financial cost.
- Identify and implement effective energy saving measures where possible and reasonably practicable (modern boilers for example).
- Establish and show that simple low- or no-cost measures to conserve energy can be effective and bring about significant savings.
- Consider using alternative sources of energy such as solar power.
- Ensure all future new build and refurbishment building projects conform to the highest environmental standards (for example Passivhaus or BREEAM) where these are consistent with good financial management.

Recycling

- Recycling to be promoted through assemblies, and form times.
- Paper is to be collected in recycling boxes in each classroom.
- Cartridges from computer ink will be placed in a labelled bin and collected for recycling.
- Recycling provision to be included in staff room.
- Encourage pupils to reduce their consumption of plastic wrapped snacks in preference for biodegradable/ compostable snack packaging.
- Three waste streams in place at each school building to reduce amount of waste going to landfill – Food, Mixed Recyclable and General Waste.

Books, Equipment and Uniform

- Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it via the PTA or other charities.
- Uniform in good condition will be collected, washed, and sold or given to children.
- Redundant computer equipment will be recycled by an authorised contractor, or alternatively, disposed of.
- Outside of the school buildings and in the wider community

Transport

- The school will raise awareness about the impact of transport has on the environment and people's health.
- Develop a robust travel plan which includes realistic and achievable goals.
- Encourage pupils and staff to commute to school using environmentally friendly methods (walking, cycling, and catching the train).
- Provide adequate and safe facilities for pupils and staff cycling and walking to school.
- We will encourage staff to use public transport wherever possible to attend conferences/courses.

Litter

- All members of the School community should be involved in helping to prevent and clear litter from the School grounds.
- Pupils should regard litter clearing as a positive environmental action, which will also help foster a sense of personal pride and responsibility in pupils.

School grounds

- The school should use the school grounds as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.
- School habitats are used by pupils to study flora and fauna and their habitat.
- The School should ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by pupils as well as provision to undertake exercise.
- Develop areas of biodiversity and a strategy to encourage wildlife within the School grounds.

