

# Sustainable Development Policy



*The wellbeing of our school community is at the heart of all that we do and is linked to our Core Values of Belief, Effort, Community & Kindness. These values help us to better understand and improve the wellbeing of our school community with this policy, and all others, being consistent in promoting those values.*

**Approved by:** Governing Body

**Date:** 8 October 2024

**Last reviewed on:** October 2024

**Next review due by:** Autumn 2026

Sustainable Development is a term that has many and varying definitions. At St Ethelwold's VA School, we have adopted our own simple definition that we believe can be equally understood by children and adults alike:

**There are four "R"s in Sustainable Development:  
Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and Respect**

We see the following four key principles as cornerstones to our commitment to Sustainable Development:

- Resources will be managed carefully and wisely.
- Our environment will be cared for through responsible stewardship.
- Children and adults alike will participate in evaluative and management processes.
- Global and community links will be nurtured and valued.

At St Ethelwold's we will educate for Sustainable Development through example, participation and directed teaching. Directed teaching will be focused in Knowledge and Understanding of the World although teaching and learning will take place across all subject areas where appropriate and with regard to the School Mission Statement. All of these approaches will aim to raise awareness, understanding, practice and reflection of the key principles.

At St Ethelwold's we will cut down the use of resources whenever possible and do our best not to waste them:

**Energy**

We will strive to **reduce** energy consumption by:

- switching off lights when they are not in use.
- keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather whenever possible.
- checking to ensure that taps have not been left running.
- auditing our energy use.

**Paper**

- We will **reduce** the amount of paper used in classrooms whenever we can and participate in the Flintshire County Council **re-cycling** scheme. Unused paper from exercise books will, at the end of the year, be removed and used as rough paper during the next school year.

**Transport**

- At St Ethelwold's many of the children travel to and from school by car. We aim to **reduce** the number of children travelling by car through discussion in class and assembly and through raising awareness in newsletters.

**Fruit**

- At St Ethelwold's, we are aiming to **reduce** the frequency of crisps, biscuits and chocolate being brought from home in favour of fruit and raw vegetables.

**Paper**

- Whenever possible, paper will be **re-used** in the classroom. Trays or boxes will be used for paper partially used that can be used again for, e.g. rough notes.

At St Ethelwold’s we invite members of the community from different walks of life, including people who work directly with Flintshire **re-cycling** projects, to meet and speak with us.

**Environment and living things**

- We will **respect** the environment and living things in it and ensure that we do not cause deliberate harm or damage. We encourage and promote active participation in environmental projects within the school.

**Assessment**

**Informal:** We will also judge ourselves informally through ongoing dialogue with children, parents and members of the community against initiatives and actions taking place in the wider world.

**Individual:** Children will be assessed individually through observation of their actions, attitudes and work as well as by listening to their thoughts and comments. Children will be encouraged to assess themselves through reflection, e.g. by considering how they treat others, by thinking of ways to save energy, or improve the playground. The School Council will play its part in this.

Version	From	To
1	September 2024	