



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction:

Environmental Education is one of the cross-curricular themes which students experience throughout their education at the RGS. The School acknowledges its role to prepare its students for future challenges but also for future career possibilities. Becoming carbon neutral is at the heart of sustainable development and, as such, the School encourages and educates its students to lower their carbon footprint.

The following aims reflect those of the School and the general aims of the cross-curricular themes:

- To develop positive pro-active attitudes, values and skills, (e.g. those appropriate to influencing public opinion/political decision-making) in the Students towards the environment, and thereby enhance their personal and social development;
- To show that environmental protection has a local, national and global dimension;
- To approach Environmental Education by a process of enquiry and investigation through practical projects and field studies - to include observation, measurement and analysis;
- To give Students knowledge and understanding and, where appropriate, direct experience of the following in order for them to make informed choices:
 - The natural processes in the environment;
 - The effects of human activity on the environment;
 - The nature of the environment - past, present and future;
 - Different cultural attitudes to the environment. This shows how much we can learn from other cultures, (e.g. indigenous peoples) about how to harmonise with the environment in a sustainable manner;
 - Current issues which explore global citizenship, e.g. climate change, extinction;
 - Local, national and international action/controls/intervention to manage the environment;
 - How the human race and all life is dependent on the environment and interdependent of place.

The School has established a Staff Sustainability Strategy group and a Student Environmental Committee to focus on supporting school projects targeted at achieving these aims, in particular carbon neutrality. These have included taking action to eliminate all use of single-use plastics and minimising printing and photocopying.

Teaching:

Environmental Education is taught through a number of subject areas and through the extra-curricular programme, particularly the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and Third Form Field Day

which does conservation work with the Local Borough Council. Awareness is also raised by Geographical Association lectures arranged and hosted by the School. The provision of Environmental Education throughout the RGS is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as Students progress through the School.

Reviewed by: Assistant Head (Curriculum)

Date of last review: 17 May 2024

Date of next review: Trinity 2025