

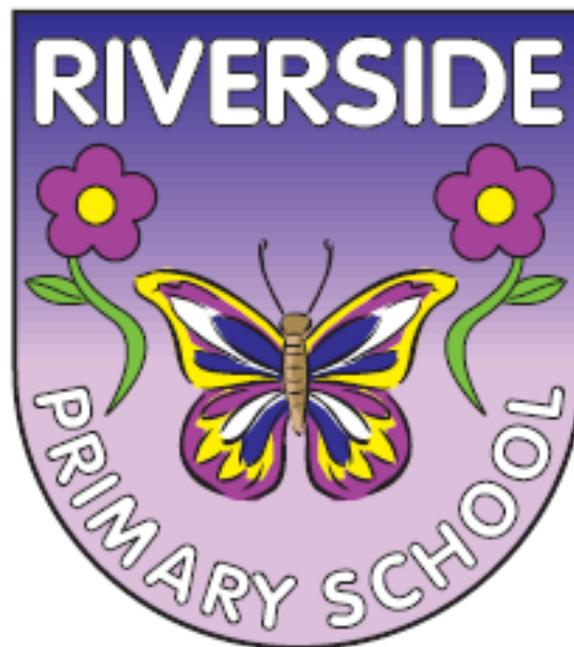
Riverside Primary School

Environmental Education Policy

September 2025



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

The governors have a responsibility to oversee that the school environment is safe and environmentally suitable for both pupils and staff and they have a commitment to securing the best environmental practice. The headteacher has been given the responsibility for the school's programme of environmental improvements. As a school, we believe that the whole of our community should have an awareness and understanding of the effects of our actions on the environment in which we live. Consequently, the school has made a public commitment to review continually, evaluate and develop its response to environmental matters and to exploit all curricular opportunities.

Objectives and targets

As a school, we use the taught and hidden curriculum to promote environmental awareness. We strive towards our environmental goal by ensuring that we:

- Reduce the amount of materials we use and the waste we produce.
- Re-use materials wherever possible.
- Restore what we deem to have been destroyed.
- Respect our neighbours and our environment (see policy on storage and disposal of waste materials).
- Bin food waste separately disposed of from other waste - each individual class to have their own bins for food waste

Action plan

When purchasing for the school, consideration will be given to environmental aspects associated with the product's manufacture, life cycle and eventual disposal as well as its cost (green procurement). Products purchased will be those that are made with less harmful materials or those which have a minimal impact on the environment. This includes buying local and reducing our carbon footprint.

The following actions will be the responsibility of all staff involving pupils of all ages throughout the school in order to achieve the objectives and targets above:

Reduce

Energy

We will:

- Switch off lights when they are not in use.
- Keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- Make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.

The school council will:

- Appoint class monitors to ensure these recommendations are carried out.

Paper

To assist the process of recycling, each class will have a waste paper box to enable us to re-cycle our paper. We shall reduce the amount of paper we use by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible.

Plastic items

We will:

- Encourage staff and pupils to stop using items such as plastic bags, single use plastic bottles and food packaging in favour of sustainable alternatives.
- Eliminate plastic from the school's supply chain wherever possible.
- Replace single use plastic with plastic that can be easily recycled wherever possible. Examples are ways in which food items, such as milk and other drinks, are packaged.

Transport

We will:

- Continue to promote the walking through the WOW scheme.
- Continue to take part in the cycling proficiency scheme to encourage safe cycling.
- Encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.

Re-use

Donated materials including containers

We will try to find uses for donated materials. This may be to help with storage or for use in art. Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle them.

OPAL

The local community can donate any objects for use for OPAL (outdoor play). Objects will be checked upon receipt, to ensure suitability for the children.

Paper

Paper will be re-used within the classroom. Each class will have a box of partially used paper that can be used again. Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used by giving to nursery or reception to cover tables for large mark making. Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.

Equipment and uniform

Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it. Good condition uniform, including football boots and trainers, will be collected, washed and sold or given to children.

Recycle

We recycle a range of materials on a regular basis. We have a number of clearly marked collection points. The school council will continue to evaluate our recycling scheme and add to the materials for recycling when necessary.

- Paper is collected in boxes in every classroom and office area. This will be collected on a regular basis by monitors and placed in the green paper recycling box on site.
- Cartridges from computer ink will be collected in a labelled bin.

Restore

School habitats used by the children to study flora and fauna and their habitat. Children will return all living creatures to their original habitat.

Any area disturbed by sport, by accident or by malicious damage, will be restored to its original condition.

Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

Respect

Our first and most important school rule is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do, whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths and abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.

We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

Curriculum

Within the school curriculum (principally science, PSHE, geography) the following topics will be covered where appropriate and related to the school environment where possible:

- Energy and water consumption.
- Sustainable consumption and CO₂.
- Transport.
- Climate change.
- Population dynamics.
- Air quality.
- Wildlife.
- Agricultural practices.
- Rivers/seas.
- Serious pollution incidents.

Outside agencies will be welcomed to encourage the school's links with relevant local and global initiatives.

Monitoring and evaluation

For monitoring and evaluation of the environmental policy:

- All parents', staff and children's surveys will have relevant questions.
- Observation of particular children in and around the school will be a good indication of the success of some of these strategies.
- Events such as assemblies and the children's work will be another way of measuring the effectiveness of this policy.

Reviewing

This policy will be reviewed every year.

School next review date: September 2026