

# **Stony Dean School**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Approved by	Head Teacher
Last Reviewed	01/09/2024
Next review	01/09/2026

## **Introduction**

Stony Dean School recognises the effect its operations and activities has on the environment. Our school acknowledges the responsibility it has to limit these effects in order to maintain the environment for future generations. Our school therefore seeks to establish an ethos at all levels and in all departments towards protecting and improving the environment and reducing the negative effect of its operations. The quality of that environment, and the extent to which it is conducive to effective learning, is of the utmost importance.

This Environmental Policy has been prepared to provide an outline of Stony Dean's mission in relation to managing the environmental effects of its operations. The Policy will communicate the aims and objectives of the school to the employees, students, suppliers and other interested parties. The school aims to quantify its effect on the environment and to minimise this effect in all its operation and new development.

The **purpose** of this Environmental Policy is to:

- Contribute positively to the learning, well-being, attitudes, behaviour and motivation of our students
- Assure students and staff of the commitment of the school to implement responsible environmental management in an economical and efficient manner.
- Reduce the consumption of raw materials and energy.
- To provide education in the environment - to give students first-hand experience of various local environments and to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that students will need to make sense of environmental issues.
- Provide a safe, comfortable and motivating place of work for all our staff;
- Be attractive and demonstrate to visitors the ethos of the school
- Reflect our core values of care and respect towards each other and our school.
- Help to provide a better environment for future generations.

Stony Dean School will seek to continually review, improve and develop this Environmental Policy and will commit to its implementation. This includes full compliance with local and national legislation and guidance and achieving integration of the Policy into decision making at all levels and in all departments.

## **Aims and Objectives**

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, recycle and re-use materials wherever possible, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed and respect our neighbours and our environment.

## **Reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions**

- We will switch off lights and computer equipment when they are not in use.
- We will monitor and audit the amount of energy used. Use, where possible, energy from low carbon technology, or renewable energy sources rather than from fossil fuel sources.

- Provide specifications and briefing documents aimed at low Co2 emissions for new school developments.

### **We will set Energy Targets for our school:**

- Reducing the unit cost of energy.
- Reducing the number of energy units used.
- Energy Monitoring.
- Using Green Energy

### **Reducing water consumption**

- Regularly review opportunities for reduction of mains water consumption.
- Install water efficient fittings and technology where economic and practical.
- Provide specifications and briefing documents for new developments aimed at low mains water consumption.
- Encourage use of recycled rainwater and grey water to reduce mains water consumption.

Our school will aim to reduce water consumption by setting 'good practice'. We will monitor water use with frequent meter readings which will enable a rapid response to potential leaks in the system before damage, excessive use and expense occurs.

### **Paper**

We will reduce the amount of paper we use in our school by:-

- Using ParentMail for paperless communications to parents and staff
- Using more efficient technology (Printers) that will Print on demand
- Reduce Colour Printing where possible
- Where possible, select paper with economy in mind/use environmentally-friendly paper
- Using Paper recycling bins

### **Transport**

Stony Dean School will seek to understand the transport requirements of its users, staff and prepare targets to reduce the environmental influence of transport related to school activities.

### **The process will include:**

- Surveying the transport requirements of the school
- Understanding the effect this has on various aspects of the environment.

### **Targets:**

- Providing solution for reducing the influence on the environment of the transport requirements i.e. replacement of school vehicles with new electric/hybrid technology
- Seek to install EV car charging ports for school, staff and visitor use
- Encourage staff to share transport when travelling to work or attending training or meetings offsite
- Improve the EPC rating of the schools buildings

### **Recycle & Reuse**

The school recycles a range of materials:

- Paper is collected in boxes in every class room and office area
- Kitchen food waste is collected separately and is used to generate electricity and liquid fertiliser
- We have a container for the collection of batteries which are collected throughout the year

- We hold uniform sales for all parents and carers to encourage the recycling of pupil uniform
- We recycle everyday materials where possible
- Staff are encouraged to upcycle materials and reuse across the school to avoid unnecessary waste

### **Indoor Environment:**

#### **Classrooms:**

All teachers take responsibility for ensuring that their classroom is an attractive, stimulating and well-resourced place to learn. The benefits of providing this sort of environment are that it will:

- help children to be engaged and to promote interest and motivation;
- support learning in the topics being studied;
- show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils;
- Recognise excellent work and effort of all pupils.

We strive to engender a positive attitude toward the school environment. This means that we teach students to have respect for the equipment and facilities in the school and to play their part in looking after the classroom and other designated areas. Staff model this behaviour in order to demonstrate to the students the importance of keeping a clean and tidy working environment and to engender a respect for the school surroundings.

Providing a safe environment is of paramount importance, and all teachers give due regard to the Health and Safety Policy when organising their classrooms. All hazards are reported immediately and actioned by the caretaker.

Staff and children are expected to leave classrooms in a neat and tidy condition. No litter should be left on the floor and all equipment and supplies should be put away in the appropriate location before the students leave school for the day.

Classrooms are cleaned each day and we ensure that the students have a clean, safe and welcoming place in which to learn.

### **Outdoor Environment**

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. Our school grounds are the one external environment to which all students have regular access, and for some of our students, they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play. We have developed our outside areas and believe our outdoor environment provides the following benefits to the children's learning:

- Enriches all areas of the curriculum by providing a unique and varied context for learning; Stimulates motivation and curiosity, encourages creativity and helps students to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- Affords opportunities for students to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility
- Our school grounds are naturally an environment for socialising, where students can make friends, play games and interact with one another.
- Our Outdoor gym equipment often encourages these relationships with equipment such as Double-Sided Skiers and Double Air Walkers requiring collaboration and/or communication in order to function. Our students are encouraged in a pressure free setting to communicate with one another and express themselves to reach their goals.

The school has planted trees and we have areas set aside to wildlife and planting and growing.

### **School Curriculum**

Environmental Education is not taught in isolation, but is linked to all areas of the curriculum, for example; Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, Art, D&T, Music, History, PSHCE, Drama and PE.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We ensure that our learning environments and displays reflect the rich diversity, cultures and abilities of our pupils. Our students have a range of differing abilities and special needs, and the learning environments should explicitly cater to these to promote and facilitate learning.

As part of this, throughout the year, teachers will ensure that ALL children will have had the opportunity to contribute to work on display in the learning environment in the classroom or around the school. Learning environments and displays will promote equal opportunities to learn and take account of disabilities and gender balance.

All students will have access to effective learning opportunities in ICT irrespective of issues of race, gender, social and economic circumstances or ability and will differentiate their teaching to meet the individual needs of our students.

Our students will engage in activities that:

- Encourage exploration and observation of the local environment.
- Encourage problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking.
- Encourage children to think and respond to what they see, touch, smell and feel in the local environment.
- Explore the visual elements in natural and man-made objects including resources from their locality and different cultures.

### **Health and Safety**

The health and safety of all who use the school is of paramount importance. It is for this reason that a Health and Safety policy is in place and in addition to this, the Headteacher, Chair of Finance and Resources (or another designated governor), caretaker regularly inspect the school premises and grounds and update the school risk assessments. The Governing Body regularly receives reports from this governor and the Head Teacher about health and safety matters including details of any areas of specific concern.

Students will be supervised at all times when they are on the school premises during normal school hours, whether indoors or outdoors. The school will ensure particularly that there is adequate supervision of students before school, at break and lunch times, and after school, when they are using the playground and the school field. Students will not be allowed to access the wildlife area or to go near the pond without adult supervision.

**Reviewed:** This policy will be reviewed every two years.      **Period of Review:** September 2026