

# **PINNER WOOD SCHOOL**



## **Sustainability at Pinner Wood**

**2023 - 2024**

## Rationale

Pinner Wood is committed to educating our pupils and families about environmental concerns, both in school and our local community, and the importance of trying to live more sustainability. Sustainability is embedded throughout the school, including within curriculum choices, use of Forest Learning for every year group, the schools grounds and garden area, recycling systems in place, education of our parents and the monthly Swap Shop. The school has also worked in conjunction with outside environmental agencies including The Woodland Trust, Orchards for School and The Tree Council to support in creating a biodiverse and sustainable environment.

We strive to support children in developing a sense of pride and ownership in protecting and improving the environment, supporting their understanding of how their actions effect the local, national and global community.

## Reduce

*We will endeavour to reduce the waste we produce*

<b>Food</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will be mindful about the amount of food we are taking at lunch time and eat what we take</li><li>• We will work with our kitchen team in Pablum to help understand what foods are being wasted and why</li><li>• We will promote our meat free Mondays and where our food is coming from</li><li>• We will reduce the fruit waste in our classrooms by using compost and fruit bins</li></ul>	<b>Energy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will turn off the lights and IWB when we are not in the classroom or not in use</li><li>• We will look at the reminder signs to help up</li><li>• We will make sure the taps are turned off when they are not needed</li><li>• Our 'Earth Friends' and 'Energy Eagles' will help remind our school</li><li>• The school will work with the Site team to help audit the energy used</li><li>• We will take part in whole school initiatives like Switch off Fortnight</li></ul>
<b>Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will be a part of the Travel for Life (Stars) scheme and will complete actions to support traveling more sustainably</li><li>• We will attempt to walk or use public transport for our school trips where possible</li><li>• We will continue to promote walking to school using whole school initiatives and the Walking Bus</li><li>• We will use Bikeability and Scooter training to support safe ways of travel</li><li>• We will encourage sharing transport for staff when going on courses/visits</li></ul>	<b>Paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will use online systems like Parent Mail and Arbor to send our information rather than paper</li><li>• We will photocopy and print on scrap paper where possible</li><li>• We will recycle paper in classes and communal areas</li><li>• Scrap paper will be saved and reused in class to reduce paper waste</li><li>• We will reduce the amount of waste paper we use for displays, especially around Christmas time</li></ul>

## Re-use

*We will endeavour to re-use materials*

<b>Food waste</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will teach our children how to use the garden compost where we will take garden waste</li><li>• We will use the school food waste bins and help children understand what food can be composted</li><li>• Classrooms and outside areas will have food waste bins to help compost remains of fruit</li></ul>	<b>Donated materials and junk modelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will use donated materials and junk modelling within classrooms, such as for building, OPAL play and art work</li><li>• We will work towards having a Sustainable Christmas, re-using materials and junk modelling</li></ul>
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## Recycle

*We will recycle and encourage our school community to help us*

- Our 'Swap Shop' is set up monthly in the playground where parents can donate books, toys, uniform and clothes to swap sustainability for free
- Every classroom has paper recycling systems in place and the cleaners are being supported in understanding how best to recycle it
- Cartridges from computer ink and photocopiers are collected and recycled
- The school works with Terra Cycle to set up recycling of old pens, crisp wrappers and chocolate wrappers. We are working to promote this to the school community and parents to recycle things from home
- We have a coat swap system in the school where parents can recycle and collect a new coat for free. During celebrations, we will adapt this where needed, for example, a Christmas Jumper swap.
- There are regular pre loved uniform sales for parents to donate and receive school uniform
- The 'Earth Friends' support the school and community in understanding what and how to recycle
- A litter picking team support removing rubbish and recycling what is needed

## Restore

*We will restore what is deemed to have been destroyed*

- Children work together to restore the garden area and school grounds, including making bird feeders, wildflower area, a bog, bug houses and other areas for wildlife and biodiversity to flourish
- The school will work with the Site team to ensure broken or disturbed areas are fixed
- We will work with the school community to ensure our OPAL lunch time resources are checked, restored and fixed

## **Respect**

*We will respect each other, our school and local groups and environment*

- Most importantly, children are taught to respect each other. This is embedded and within all our discussions including Geography global issues, sharing cultures and celebrations or working alongside others.
- Nursery and Reception take part in Forest School learning then all other classes from Year 1 - Year 6 take part in Forest Learning lessons where they are taught how to respect to environment, birds, animals, other wildlife and the school grounds

## **Teacher and Learning**

Unique and fulfilling opportunities for outdoor learning are embedded throughout the curriculum to allow for stimulating and enjoyable learning experiences. However, there are also links made with the inside classroom learning, ensuring the needs of the National Curriculum and EYFS development matters goals are met. These include:

- Holding 'Sustainability Week' where each learning is focused around the Global Goals, linking these to our own school and local community
- Using and re-using junk modelling and containers for our Art learning
- Using used and recycled materials as part of our OPAL lunch time play provision
- DT learning adapted to ensure materials that are used are recycled or re-used
- Having external speakers and visitors that support children in developing awareness of the world around them, such as the Owl visit
- Creating instruments that work from junk modelling and recycled materials, linked to Music learning

## **Outdoor Environment**

Pinner Wood's 'Wonder Garden' is a bio-diverse and multi-faceted outdoor learning place that is an area for our whole school community to think, play and learn. The area has a decked space, circular seating, forest area pergola and fire pit, orchard, meadow and vegetable and herb area. The school was chosen by The Tree Council to feature in a day of learning film and an oracy competition by the Speaker Trust called 'Speaking up for Trees and Nature'. Metal, wood, rubber and recycled plastic have been chosen specifically along with re-used and reclaimed items, including tyres, repurposed gates, concrete reinforcement mesh, container conversion, in line with our school community sustainability aim. A keen group of Year 5 and 6 pupils support with the gardening, clearing the fish pond, harvesting vegetables and helping others be aware of how to protect the biodiversity.

## **Earth Friends**

The popular 'Earth Friends' meet weekly and are working towards the Green Flag Eco School award, following a 7 step programme with targeted actions to ensure we are following best practice in being an environmentally friendly and sustainable school. The 'Earth Friends' support with areas including creating a newsletter sharing hints and tips to be greener, lights off reminders, energy audits, supporting with waste in the hall and completing environmental reviews.

From Earth Friends, some pupils have created their own Sustainability Club where they make posters, litter pick and remind classes about recycling in the school.

## **Forest Learning**

The children in Early Years at Pinner Wood School have regular sessions in our onsite Forest School area. This gives children a chance to explore learning in an outdoor setting, whilst also learning about the importance of taking care of our wonderful environment!

Our activities include;

- Exploring our senses
- Seeing environmental changes throughout the seasons
- Bird watching
- Mud painting
- Den building
- Bug hunting
- Exploring flowers, plants and trees
- Looking for signs of local wildlife
- Taking care of insects

The rest of our school pupils from Year 1 - Year 6 also take part in Forest Learning lessons, at least once a half term, with a different theme and focus including storytelling, sensory and cooking. Where possible, these are connected to new texts to support understanding and build the learning in a context children can relate to.

For all our pupils, forest learning promotes well-being, confidence building and develops team building skills.

The children learn rules promoting health and wellbeing, such as 'no pick' or 'no lick', walking carefully on uneven ground, risk taking and the importance of hand washing on return from the session.

## Cultural Capital

Other opportunities are sought throughout the school and curriculum to support children in being more environmentally friendly. These include:

- Running trips alongside The Tree Council with our keen gardeners and Pupil Premium students to understand more about flora and fauna
- Visiting local green areas, parks and wildlife homes to explore biodiversity
- Celebrating special events such as Switch off Fortnight, Big Plastic Count, Earth Day and Sustainability Week
- Inviting speakers to the school to talk about their jobs linked to sustainability and the environment, including sustainability in business and research projects of biodiversity at home
- Year 6 Change Speeches having a focusing on sustainability in our school and local community.
- Being part of local school Sustainability Hubs where ideas and best practice can be shared to best support pupils and staff
- Being part of a Climate Group with other local Head teachers
- Forest Learning, Gardening and Art club also allow children to explore learning relating to growing, biodiversity, wildlife and being outside, such as through the Education for Nature Parks