

Sustainable Development Policy



King Henry VIII 3-19 School Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII

We believe in the limitless capacity for everyone to achieve great things.

Effective from: September 2024

Approved by Governors: December 2024

Reviewed by Governors (Resources Committee): November 2025

Next Review Due: November 2026

1. Introduction

King Henry VIII 3-19 School is committed to being a sustainable and environmentally friendly school. Sustainable development is an important part of our school ethos and is underpinned by each and every one of our values.

Sustainability is mandatory within the Curriculum for Wales and will form part of every pupils education throughout their time in our school. Whilst a Sustainability Policy is not essential, it provides a defined link between the curriculum and the management of the school which is crucial to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of everything we do.

The school has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the worlds resources wisely. As such, education for sustainable development (not just via the curriculum) should give pupils a greater understanding of both natural and human systems through a range of immediate environmental experiences that engage their senses, emotions and thinking.

The six areas of focus set out in this policy are embedded in the management of our school, which in turn fosters awareness with our pupils, and will help our school to commit to making positive changes every day. As such this policy covers the way that the school is managed and maintained and provides an example to pupils of how to respect and care for the environment.

2. Related Policies

The following documents should be considered in conjunction with the sustainable development policy:

- King Henry VIII 3-19 Accessibility Plan
- King Henry VIII 3-19 Digital Communications Policy
- King Henry VIII 3-19 Food and Fitness Policy
- Monmouthshire County Council Active Tavel Plan
- Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategy

3. King Henry VIII 3-19 School – Sustainability Areas of Focus

In April 2025 our school community moves onto one new carbon zero site, and the areas of focus outlined in this policy will be able to be developed further, in discussion with our Pupil Leadership Group and with staff.

At present each area of focus has two broad objectives, but once in the new building, the school will produce a sustainability charter and an action plan which is linked to the curriculum. This policy however gives the opportunity to instil good practices prior to moving.

Food and Catering

Our school expects the highest level of sustainability from our catering contractors. The school will work with the catering contractor to ensure that:

- Food and drink are sourced from local producers to reduce food miles or from locations where orders can be consolidated to minimise the carbon footprint (whatever the dietary preference).
- Our contractor will have measures in place to prevent unnecessary food waste, through recipe innovation.

Waste and Recycling

The school is committed to recycling as much waste as possible, in line with the Welsh Government guidelines and will undertake the following:

- Pupils and staff have access to suitably located bins and will separate their mainstream waste into food and compostable items, mixed recyclable, paper/card and general. The school also has provision to recycle more specific waste such as printer cartridges, batteries and crisp packets.
- Where possible the staff and pupils should prevent creating waste in the first instance by using refillable water bottles or to use electronic devices rather than printing.

Energy and Water

Staff and pupils are encouraged to reduce their need for energy and water which has a financial impact as well as an environmental impact. It is the smallest of gestures that make the difference, and everyone is encouraged to:

- Switch off ICT equipment over night and turn off lights when rooms are not in use.
- Ensure that taps are not left running.

Transport and Travel

During term time, there is a higher number of vehicles on the roads leading to increased accidents and pollution. Where possible staff and pupils should:

- Use public or school transport, or car share.
- Walk or cycle which also has the added impact of increasing fitness levels.

Buildings and Grounds

A sustainable school provides an excellent teaching and learning resource for our pupils. We will continue to use our current sites to their full potential both recreationally and as part of the curriculum. As such we will:

- Work with our grounds contractors, we will ensure that external areas are maintained in a sustainable way, enhancing biodiverse conservation.
- Pupils should treat the building, grounds, resources and equipment with respect to prevent unnecessary breakages which need replacement.

Purchasing

Our school produces a high volume of waste and recycling. In order to reduce this:

- Our staff are encouraged to reduce the amount that they buy and, reuse and repair where possible, which carries both environmental and financial benefits.
- The school will continue its tradition of encouraging the use of preloved uniform and sports kits.

4. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The impact of areas of focus are reviewed annually by the Resources Committee. The outcomes of this analysis will inform future planning, alongside pupil voice, in ensuring that the school is meeting its sustainability obligations.