THE PERSE SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE

Environmental Sustainability Policy



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About Us

The Perse School is a co-educational day school for children aged 3-18. Our aim is for every pupil to share a love for learning while developing a character of kindness and understanding towards one another and the environment. We value **intellectual curiosity and scholarship**, **endeavour**, **breadth and balance**, and **one another and the environment**. As a school, we are shaped by our values and believe that every student should be taught the importance of looking after each other and the environment around them. The future belongs to our students, with their actions impacting future generations to come. It is therefore imperative that we are visionaries, always looking forward as we shape the education we provide, equipping pupils with the knowledge and tools necessary to become responsible global citizens committed to sustainable development.

Sustainable Development at The Perse School

As an educational institution, we have a responsibility to lead by example and ensure we are doing our best to protect the environment, mitigate against, and adapt to climate change. At the Perse we are committed to driving sustainable development and behaving in environmentally responsible ways.

This Environmental Sustainability Policy allows us to communicate our key sustainability commitments and the principles, which enable us to prioritise sustainable choices.

We believe that each of us play a vital part in creating a kind and considerate community, not just for us as individuals, but for the flora and fauna that make up our local and wider environment. It is important that both our staff and students understand the importance of looking after the world around them, and act to make positive changes that will impact future generations for the better.

A range of sustainability initiatives have already been implemented across our school grounds and buildings, and more will be implemented as we seek to improve our sustainability performance.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure its continued relevance to all that we do.

Strategic Areas of Focus: Alignment with the UN Sustainability Development Goals

The UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of seventeen sustainable development goals intended to enable global commitment to creating impact solutions and actions to challenges facing humanity across the globe. Since their creation and adaptation in 2015, governments, businesses and organisations of all shapes and sizes have increasingly adopted the SDGs and their indicators as part of their sustainability strategies.

The SDGs provide an opportunity to assess operational activities which have or can have a material impact for better or worse. At the Perse, we have identified five SDGs which have or can have the greatest impact, including providing *quality education,* encouraging *sustainable cities and communities*, promoting *responsible consumption and production*, taking *climate action*, and *protecting life on land.*



Provide our students with quality education on sustainability-related issues and topics to equip them with the awareness and knowledge needed to make sustainable choices and become responsible global citizens.



Improve our buildings by improving their sustainability performance and providing our staff and students with less carbon intensive commuting and travel options.



Prioritise goods and services with transparent sustainability standards and credentials and low environmental impact. Prioritise reuse, recycle and recover for physical products where feasible, before opting for safe disposal when necessary.



Reduce the school's carbon and wider environmental impacts through improving our buildings' energy and water performance and reducing our reliance on fossil-based fuels for heating and transportation.



Improve the biodiversity of our sites through the repurposing of grounds to accommodate wildlife and green areas, reducing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, and the implementation of other nature and biodiversity-promoting projects.

Environmental Sustainability Principles

Building upon these five SDGs we have identified eight principles which underpin the School's environmental targets and action plan. The principles are:

- Reduce the environmental and carbon impact of our school buildings, using sustainable and energy efficient designs and materials for new builds and refurbishments.
- Promote sustainable and low-carbon modes of transport, including moving the school owned fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles.
- Reduce the environmental impact of our procurement practices, through careful selection of suppliers of goods and services.
- Reduce waste, promoting the importance of 'reduce, reuse, recover, and recycle'.
- Reduce water usage by adopting sustainable water practices.
- Reduce the environmental impact of school food, including sourcing local and seasonal ingredients and promoting dishes with a lower carbon footprint.
- Improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat across the school grounds by adopting sustainable land management practices.
- Provide up-to date and relevant education on sustainable development to staff and students at the Perse.

Sustainability Targets and Action Plan

The eight environmental sustainability principles form the basis of environmental targets adopted by the school.

Progress against the targets, and the appropriateness of those targets, will be reviewed annually and impact will be measured.

Governor, Staff and Pupil Involvement

Progress requires a shared vision and commitment from Governors, staff and pupils.

Governors will review the Environmental Sustainability policy on an annual basis, and the Board's Finance and General Purposes Committee will receive annual reports from the Bursar on the school's progress towards the agreed commitments and principles.

The Perse has created a Staff Sustainability Committee, chaired by the Bursar and comprising of individuals drawn from across the Upper, Prep and Pelican from a wide range of departments, to ensure the best representation possible. The Sustainability Committee is responsible for progressing the school's sustainability efforts, including reviewing the sustainability targets and action plan to ensure their relevancy and appropriateness as the school community works towards the agreed aims and objectives.

The Staff Committee in turn works alongside pupil eco leads – the Green Team at the Upper and the Eco Team at the Prep School. These pupil committees suggest initiatives and lead pupil engagement on matters relating to environmental sustainability.