



## **Environmental Education Policy**

**Date Passed to Governors:**

**Approved / Adopted by Governing Body:**      **July 2018**

**Date Policy Reviewed:**      **December 2020**

**Date of Next Review:**      **December 2021**

Longfield Academy is committed to developing the widest possible awareness of environmental issues.

## **Rationale**

It is essential that pupils have an understanding and respect for their environment both in and out of school. This is part of becoming responsible British citizens. At Longfield we aim to ensure pupils leave school with an education that enables them to interact with their environment in a responsible way and go on to contribute to society in a positive way.

Environmental education is delivered across the curriculum especially in #WeAreLongfield, Geography and Science. By the term 'environment', this policy refers to the physical environment, inside and outside the school buildings, including rooms, corridors, offices, play areas and open spaces, and embraces the furniture, facilities, resources and displays. The term also, however, should be taken to refer to the 'climate' of the school in which children have to live and learn: the 'atmosphere' and mood of the school, brought about as much by interpersonal relationships and the way we treat each other, as by the physical environment. The school environment should be conducive to excellent personal, social and emotional development, for adults and children alike, as well as enabling good academic achievement.

There is also an opportunity for pupils with a particular interest in the Environment to participate in extra-curricular clubs – these include activities organised by Longfield staff and those organised by external agencies. Looking after the environment is promoted through school social media outlets such as Longfield Instagram pages in Science and Geography.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our aim is to provide and maintain a school environment which will:

- contribute positively to the learning, well-being, attitudes, behaviour and motivation of our children;
- provide a safe and stimulating learning environment;
- enable children to make maximum use of the opportunities provided by both the grounds and buildings of the school;
- provide a safe, comfortable and motivating place of work for our staff;
- be attractive and impressive to visitors;
- reflect our aims statement, and our values of care and respect towards each other and our school.

Longfield Academy considers that Environmental Education is an entitlement of all pupils and should enable them to:

- Understand the natural processes that take place in the environment

- Understand that human lives depend on the processes, inter-relationships and resources that exist in the environment
- Be aware of the impact of human activities on the environment
- Appreciate the awe and wonder of the environment
- Enjoy the environment responsibly
- Communicate ideas and participate in the decision-making processes, which shape the environment
- Interpret and experience their surroundings critically in order to achieve a balanced view of their environment
- Appreciate a range of environments and cultures, past and present, and understand how different cultural groups interact with their environment
- Understand conflicts occur over environmental issues and consider how such conflicts may be overcome
- Be aware that communities and nations are inter-dependent
- Develop well-informed judgments regarding environmental issues and identify their own level of commitment towards the environment in which we all live
- Responsibility for monitoring will be by the Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum)

### **Indoor Environment**

All teachers will take responsibility to ensure that their classroom is an attractive place in which to learn. The purposes of providing a stimulating classroom environment are:

- to engage the children and promote interest and motivation;
- to support learning in the topics being studied;
- to show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils; to recognise excellent work and help promote high standards.

Displays will reflect the themes currently being studied by the pupils. Displays should not only be relevant and attractive but should also aim to be as interactive as possible. This means that children will be encouraged to look at the displays and make use of the information on show. Displays will be changed regularly. Providing a safe environment is of paramount importance, and all teachers will give due regard to the health and safety policy when organising their classrooms. Any faults should be reported immediately. Classrooms will be cleaned each day and we will ensure that the children have a clean, safe and welcoming place in which to learn.

### **Outdoor Environment**

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

It can:

- enrich all areas of the curriculum, by providing a unique and varied context for learning;
- stimulate motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- create opportunities for pupils to increase their understanding of sustainable development;
- decrease the incidence of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, damage and vandalism;
- afford opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility. By using learning strategies that enable the children to make use of all their senses, we can appeal to all learning styles. It is easier to remember what you have heard, seen, touched, tasted and smelled. The outdoor environment provides an additional opportunity for pupils learning experiences.

Longfield Academy considers it important that our community is aware of the environmental issues in our lives. We discourage unnecessary waste. Littering features on the student standards message Power Point shown weekly and informs pupils with regards recycling. There are paper and plastic recycling bins in school and their use is encouraged particularly at lunch times. Pupils eat their food in the dining areas provided and are not permitted to take wrappers and trays outside. Longfield is involved in a number of schemes to promote recycling and a healthy environment.

### **Environmental Projects Include;**

The good life project is a £4000 grant awarded to the school from Darlington suicide prevention team. The aim is to engage pupils with the environment through gardening and growing food and build a school garden to help educate pupils about sustainability and the important of protecting the area around us.

Longfield has a 'force-platform' which generates power back into the school system recycling energy.

With the requirement of masks being worn in school, pupils have been encouraged to buy washable masks in order to look after the environment.

Longfield donates to the food bank using surplus food from the school and donations from pupils.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The class teacher has the responsibility for maintaining a well ordered and tidy classroom.

The school will ensure that the classrooms are cleaned on a daily basis during term time.

The school environment will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.

A report on the school environment will be presented to the Governing Body on an annual basis.