



WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POLICY

Woodbridge High School's position on our environmental responsibility

At Woodbridge High School we believe it is imperative for the school community to be aware and understand the effects of their behaviour towards 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. This means that reducing our negative impact is not enough. Being compliant is not enough either. We want to go beyond that. The world around us is changing. Expectations on us as educators are growing. We need to keep improving, responding and acting in a more responsible manner to ensure that we have a positive impact on students, their families and the world around us.

Our stance

Environmental degradation is one of the biggest global challenges of our time. Our understanding of climate change is based on science, leading us to conclude that global warming will initiate major changes to planet weather systems. We are also seeing reductions in snow and ice resulting in sea level rises, these changes are jeopardising many species of life on earth. We agree with the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)¹, that human action has been the major contributor to most of the global warming over the past 100 years, due mainly to the burning of fossil fuels.

We also agree with the CSE (Centre for Sustainable Energy)² that the climate emergency is closely connected to social justice and we believe that both of these can be addressed through many of the same activities. We want to accelerate to a society that will benefit the security, prosperity and health of our students, staff and the community around us.

The Role of Policy Makers and Legislators

Responding to climate change requires concerted global action by individuals and local / national legislators. Policies are required to create an effective framework for these actions, legislating to ensure all educational institutions are incentivised to reduce emissions. These policies should take a global perspective to avoid shifting greenhouse gas emissions from one region to another without achieving an overall reduction. We believe the Paris [climate] Agreement³ is a great starting point to ensure the global community does what is needed to reduce global warming. As a school we know we need to work individually, locally and as part of a national movement, as well as remaining actively engaged as part of the global effort to hold warming below 1.5°C.

The Role of Woodbridge High School

Our school's ethos is to show kindness, tolerance and respect; this includes people and the world around us. We want to have a positive impact on society, and an important part of this ambition is

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

² <https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1237>

³ https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

to reduce our environmental impact in relation to the school's operations. Additionally, we know that the impact of individual behaviour multiplied by many, can make huge changes to our collective carbon footprint for generations to come. We will use resources responsibly and eliminate waste generation. We need to ensure that we do not consume resources at a faster rate than which the world can cope with, as we want this generation and future generations to benefit from the same variety of resources and materials in which we have access to today.

Our aims and what we are working towards:

1. supporting students' and staff's wellbeing
2. a curriculum that builds students' ability to combat the challenges of tomorrow
3. implementing a mind-set of living sustainably
4. combating climate change
5. reducing, reusing and recycling the materials we use and waste we produce
6. restoring what is damaged
7. respecting our community and our environment
8. being a leader in the educational field regarding the running of a sustainable school

N.B. There is an additional document to support the strategy behind the Environmental Education Policy.

Approved by the F&GP Committee on: 7th October 2020

Next Review Date: Autumn term 2022

Reviewer: Ms Tanwen Morgan (Teacher with Responsibility for the School Environment)

