



# Sustainability Policy



**Park Community Academy**

September 2023

## Park Community Academy Sustainability Policy

### RATIONALE:

Sustainable living is a way of thinking about how we organize our lives, work and education system so that we don't destroy our most precious resource - our planet. It is about helping people to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future or impacting unfairly on other people's lives. It is about reshaping the way we think about the future.

### AIMS:

- To encourage care for the environment - local, national and international
- To prepare young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through teaching and through practical experiences
- To encourage care for oneself - our health and well-being
- To encourage care for each other - across cultures, distances and generations
- To encourage pupils to share their views, thoughts and feelings on sustainability

### **Our vision is.....**

- To provide all of our children with rich and varied learning experiences through which they can reach their full academic and social potential, develop their self-esteem and also to encourage a commitment to life-long learning.
- As a staff we strive to ensure all pupils have at least one learning outside the classroom experience per half term and that LOtC progressively develops knowledge, skills and understanding depending upon a pupils' individual needs.

### AGREED PROCEDURE TO ACHIEVE AIMS:

Aim 1: To encourage care for the environment - Local, National and International

As a school we are proud after holding Green Flag status for 14 years that we have now achieved the new 'Accreditation' status which is due to be renewed in 2024. The Subject leader is responsible for setting yearly targets in the form of a development plan. These targets reflect the various environmental themes as set out by Eco-Schools. The pupils engage in many environmental events throughout the school year not only on our school grounds but also in the local community. A key priority driving the school's involvement forward in this area

is; Pupil involvement, Fairtrade and International curriculum which will be discussed in greater depth in aim four.

With the school expanding constantly, the school building has undergone developments to improve energy efficiency through more sustainable roofing and window alternations. Electricity consumption has decreased through alterations to lighting as well as wildlife areas been protected in the planning of new building developments on the school grounds. The outdoor areas are a pivotal learning resource for our children in school as well as in extra curriculum time. We have worked hard to develop learning outside the classroom with OPAL play now embedded at breaktimes. We have also developed our new Multi use sports area along with the gym and two Forest schools.

We believe that by fostering positive attitudes about sustainable issues and developing awareness and critical thinking skills in our pupils and the wider community, future generations will be better equipped to manage the challenges that lie ahead for our planet.

Aim 2: To prepare young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through teaching, and example in day-to-day practices.

At Park Community Academy, we take a holistic approach to sustainability. It is not seen as something extra to tag onto the curriculum but rather an approach which permeates all that we do. It is embedded in our school vision, it is part of our school ethos and woven into all areas of teaching and learning. It is a way of thinking that we seek to share with the whole school community, other schools and the local community. At all times we aim to promote equality and inclusion. We have three key events each year; The Big Energy Switch off, Fairtrade Fortnight and the whole school Litter pick.

Aim 3: To encourage care for oneself - our health and well-being

At Park Community Academy we put a high value on the well-being of our pupils and the school environment. The classrooms are welcoming, clean and interesting places to learn. We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying which is reinforced by staff who demonstrate fair, positive, and caring attitude and approach.

Inclusion is integral to our approach to teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop high self-esteem and achieve good standards. Health and well-being are deemed to be high priority and the school has achieved its Healthy Schools' status. Pupils have many opportunities within the curriculum to take part in PE

activities and after school clubs provide a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year. There are two yearly residential trips that pupils in year 6 upwards can actively participate in. Extra curriculum activities also provide a wide range of internal and external activities such as; circuit training, sports club as well as an ECO club.

Healthy Eating is promoted through curriculum work. We work with the kitchen staff to develop a range of different incentives to encourage pupils to eat a balanced meal and to try new foods.

Aim 4: To encourage care for each other - across cultures, distances and generations

Pupils spend time each week through curriculum work and assemblies developing a sound understanding of interpersonal relationships. The expanding size of our school has enabled us to adopt a family model to caring for each other. Older pupils act as buddies and helpers to the younger pupils in school and on the playground. On some occasions, pupils have the opportunity to work across stages in mixed age groups. The older pupils within key stage four and five now have the opportunity to conduct their work experience internally helping office staff and teachers as well as going offsite into the local community.

Our cultural diversity and integration has become a central development for the school. We have achieved and maintained the first two Fairtrade awards; Fairaware and Fairactive and hope to gain the third Fairachiever award in the near future. Communication and interaction with local schools has supported Fairtrade status within Blackpool. Annual Fairtrade coffee mornings encourage families to come together to learn about and support Fairtrade. We are proud to have raised in excess of £2000 for Fairtrade over the last 8 years.

Aim 5- To encourage pupils to share their views, thoughts and feelings on sustainability

All pupils have the opportunity to be a member of the ECO council in order to voice their opinions, ideas and successes. The profile has been raised through; uniforms, termly meetings to discuss projects as well as representing PCA at community events. The Eco council collaborates to create the ECO moto and the Plastic Pledge which can then be shared through the school. All pupils get opportunity to take part in three annual whole school events; The Big Switch off, Fairtrade Fortnight and Waste week. Through a holistic curriculum sustainability is embedded though out school life providing a culture where

pupils feel empowered to share their; thoughts, opinions and feelings about sustainability topics.

#### Learning outside the Classroom-

We also endeavor to support the school's learning outside the classroom policy at all times. Park Community Academy is committed to ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to experience learning outside the classroom. We have local memberships/links to; Myerscough College, Holly Farm, Turbary Woods, The Tower, the Sealife Centre and the Zoo to enrich the sustainability curriculum.