

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The OHC&AT Board of Directors has agreed this Policy and as such, it applies across the organisation – 9th December 2016.

Jay Mercer
Chair of OHCAT Board



Darren Coghlan
Chair of OHC Board



Environmental and Sustainability Policy

INTRODUCTION

Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust (OHC&AT) is committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities for all our pupils and students. OHC&AT recognises that “Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century” (UCL Lancet Commission, 2009) and that the cost of a strong and early move towards sustainable practice is significantly less than the financial, human and other costs of taking no action. With this in mind, OHC&AT is committed to continual improvement in our environmental performance, to meeting our statutory environmental obligations and to minimising our impact on scarce resources.

Our main environmental impacts arise from: carbon emissions from energy use and travel; waste generation; water use and the use of non-renewable resources. To minimise our impact on the environment, we have set the following objectives:

- Advocate sustainability and, through our example and achievements, inspire and encourage others.
- Develop and implement action plans to minimise our impacts, and set appropriate targets to achieve continuous improvement.
- Promote sustainable living with students, parents/carers and partners as well as within the wider community.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues among staff and encourage them to observe best practice.
- Annually review our environmental performance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The following categories and suggestions for good practice were derived from consultation with Orchard Hill College students.

Lighting: ensure we use low energy lighting; switch off lights when rooms are empty; incorporate light sensors where possible e.g. toilets, so that lights switch off when the room is empty.

Heat variations: careful use of heating and air conditioning systems, removing/adding all possible clothing before adjusting the temperature.

Travel: looking at use of minibuses; car sharing for staff; encouraging use of bikes (staff showers, bike scheme); car sharing schemes; utilising public transport where possible; virtual meetings e.g. via Skype.

Shopping: procurement; sustainable bag use e.g. Bag for Life; sharing equipment with other agencies; food – local, where has it come from; staff tea and coffee – is it fair trade?

Paper and printers: use recycled paper; monitor paper consumption; printer settings – double-sided and eco print option set as default.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: careful use of all resources; well positioned bins for recycling; accessible information for students around what to recycle; compost bins available where possible; use environmentally friendly cleaning products; reduce use of plastic cups for drinking water; recycle food waste; only filling kettle where necessary.

Water: water saving taps; recycled water; filling kettles only with what is needed; reusable cups for water instead of plastic cups.

De carbonised care: promote healthy lifestyles; make information accessible; healthy lifestyles group; share best practice; utilise local farm/allotment projects and other community projects.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Directors

- Review and agree this policy on a three year basis

Executive Team

- Ensure that systems are in place to enable all students and staff to participate in practice which contributes to an environmentally friendly and sustainable environment across the organisation
- Ensure all policies, procedures, practices and training reflect this commitment and desire
- Encourage staff to participate in the promotion and practice of sustainability in the workplace e.g. offer regular training on this theme, provide channels through which staff can contribute ideas for improving organisational practice
- Address with individuals any unsustainable practice witnessed or promoted
- Report on a yearly basis to the Board of Directors on how OHC&AT is meeting its sustainability targets

All Staff

- Understand and adhere to this policy and any other procedures relating to sustainable practice
- Participate in the promotion and practice of sustainability in the workplace

POLICY REVIEW DETAILS

<i>Version:</i>	1.0
<i>Reviewer:</i>	Stephanie Hill, Janet Sherborne
<i>Approval body:</i>	Family Board
<i>Date this version approved:</i>	9 th December 2016
<i>Due for review:</i>	Autumn 2019

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Facilities Procedures