



TOWNLEY
— EST 1937 —
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Environmental Policy

Townley Grammar School Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Policy Statement

Townley Grammar School is committed to fostering a deep understanding of environmental sustainability and preparing its students for a world impacted by climate change. As a leading secondary institution, we recognise our responsibility to minimise our environmental footprint, promote eco-friendly attitudes, and integrate sustainable practices throughout all aspects of school life. This policy outlines our commitment to environmental stewardship, aiming to cultivate a culture where sustainability is embedded in our curriculum, operations, and community engagement.

2. Aims and Objectives

This policy aims to:

- Educate and empower students to become environmentally responsible citizens, equipped with the knowledge and skills to address global environmental challenges.
- Minimise the school's environmental impact by reducing carbon emissions, conserving resources, and managing waste effectively.
- Enhance biodiversity on the school grounds and promote a connection with nature.
- Integrate environmental sustainability across the curriculum, providing opportunities for learning in and about the natural environment.
- Promote green skills and careers, preparing students for future opportunities in the green economy.
- Ensure the school estate is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Foster a whole-school approach, encouraging participation from students, staff, parents, and the wider community.
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and best practice guidelines.

3. Legal Framework

Townley Grammar School will comply with all relevant UK environmental legislation and regulations, including but not limited to:

- The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)
- The Environment Act 2021
- Waste Management Regulations
- Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations
- Water Industry Act 1991

We will also align our practices with the Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for the education and children's services systems.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Environmental sustainability is a collective responsibility at Townley Grammar School.

- **The Governing Body:** Will oversee the implementation of this policy, ensuring environmental sustainability is a strategic priority and features on meeting agendas. They will support the Headteacher and leadership team in driving cultural change.
- **The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT):** Are responsible for championing environmental sustainability, allocating resources, and ensuring the policy is effectively implemented and monitored across the school. They will nominate a Sustainability Lead.
- **Sustainability Lead (Individual or Committee):** Will be responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the school's Climate Action Plan, coordinating initiatives, and acting as a central point of contact for sustainability matters.
- **Department Heads:** Will ensure that environmental sustainability is integrated into their respective curricula and departmental practices where appropriate.
- **Site Manager/Facilities Team:** Responsible for managing the school estate's environmental performance, including energy, water, waste, and grounds maintenance, and for identifying opportunities for improvement.
- **All Staff:** Are expected to integrate sustainable practices into their daily routines, support environmental initiatives, and educate students on sustainability.
- **Students (via Eco-Committee/Student Council):** Will be actively involved in identifying environmental issues, proposing solutions, leading initiatives, and promoting sustainable behaviours among their peers. The Eco-Committee will play a vital role in the development and review of the Climate Action Plan.
- **Parents and Carers:** Are encouraged to support the school's environmental initiatives and promote sustainable practices at home.

5. Key Policy Areas

5.1. Waste and Recycling

Townley Grammar School is committed to the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle. We will:

- Minimise waste generation through careful procurement and consumption habits.
- Implement comprehensive recycling schemes for paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and cans across all school buildings, including classrooms, offices, and common areas.
- Promote composting of appropriate food waste from the canteen and staff rooms.
- Ensure the safe and responsible disposal of specialist waste, such as laboratory chemicals, electronic waste (WEEE), and batteries, in accordance with regulations.
- Reduce paper consumption through digital communication and double-sided printing as standard.
- Discourage the use of single-use plastics and promote reusable alternatives (e.g., water bottles, lunch containers).

5.2. Energy and Water Management

We will strive to minimise our consumption of energy and water resources. We will:

- Regularly monitor and review energy and water usage to identify areas for improvement and set reduction targets.
- Implement energy-efficient measures, such as LED lighting, improved insulation, and efficient heating systems.
- Promote behavioural changes among staff and students to turn off lights and electronic equipment when not in use and conserve water.
- Explore opportunities for generating renewable energy on site, such as solar panels.
- Ensure efficient use of water in washrooms, kitchens, and for grounds maintenance.

5.3. Transport

Townley Grammar School encourages sustainable travel to and from school. We will:

- Promote walking, cycling, and the use of public transport among students and staff.
- Provide secure and adequate bicycle storage facilities.
- Participate in initiatives that encourage active travel, such as 'Walk to School Week'.
- Minimise school-related travel where possible and consider the environmental impact of school trips and transport arrangements.

5.4. School Grounds and Biodiversity

We will enhance the biodiversity of our school grounds and use them as an outdoor learning resource. We will:

- Develop and maintain green spaces, including gardens, wildlife habitats, and planting schemes that support local flora and fauna.
- Engage students in projects to improve biodiversity, such as tree planting, creating bug hotels, and establishing wildflower areas.
- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals in grounds maintenance.
- Explore participation in initiatives like the National Education Nature Park.

5.5. Sustainable Procurement

Townley Grammar School will consider environmental and social impacts when procuring goods and services. We will:

- Prioritise suppliers who demonstrate strong environmental credentials and offer sustainable products.
- Source products locally where possible to reduce transport emissions.
- Choose durable, reusable, recycled, and energy-efficient products.
- Consider the lifecycle of products, from production to disposal.

5.6. Curriculum and Education

Environmental sustainability will be a core component of our educational provision. We will:

- Integrate climate change and sustainability themes across a range of secondary subjects, including Science, Geography, PSHE, Business Studies, and Design & Technology.
- Provide knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, its causes, impacts, and solutions.
- Equip teachers with the necessary training and resources to deliver effective sustainability education.
- Promote green skills and careers, highlighting pathways for students interested in environmental fields.
- Encourage student-led projects, debates, and campaigns on environmental issues.
- Utilise the school grounds and local environment as an outdoor classroom for practical learning experiences.

5.7. Resilience and Adaptation

We will assess and address the risks posed by climate change to the school estate and operations. We will:

- Consider the impacts of extreme weather events (e.g., heatwaves, heavy rainfall, flooding) in our planning and infrastructure development.
- Implement measures to enhance the resilience of our buildings and grounds.
- Develop emergency procedures that account for climate-related risks.

6. Communication and Review

This policy will be communicated to all staff, students, and parents via the school website and relevant communication channels. It will be reviewed biannually by the Headteacher and Governing Body, in consultation with the Sustainability Lead and Eco-Committee, to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. The Climate Action Plan will provide specific, measurable targets and actions to support this policy.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against this policy and the associated Climate Action Plan will be regularly monitored. Key performance indicators will include:

- Energy and water consumption data.
- Waste generation and recycling rates.
- Participation in sustainable travel initiatives.
- Engagement in environmental curriculum activities and extra-curricular clubs.
- Progress on specific actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

Annual reports on the school's environmental performance will be shared with the Governing Body and the school community.