



Independent Specialist Schools  
**Sustainability Policy.**

*We will teach our students to  
stop wasting resources the  
world cannot spare to satisfy  
wants we cannot justify.*

Author	D. Hardman
Made Policy Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2024
Review Target Date	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 thereafter annually
Previous Reviews	-
Version / Release	1

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## **Aims and Definitions**

This policy declares and affirms the trust's intention to educate and operate following all reasonably practicable measures to contribute to global sustainability.

We define and promote our shared understanding of Sustainability to be:

1. Reducing our negative impact on global ecology, natural resources and global poverty.
2. Contributing to global ecological wellbeing, human wellbeing, and sustaining life.
3. Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations.

## **Scope:**

Teaching and Learning, Facilities, and Operations

## **Responsibilities.**

Sustainability is a shared responsibility led by the Trust's Management but will be perpetuated by all stakeholders. Individually we all have our part to play, and this will be managed and encouraged by each of the school's leadership colleagues and appointed peer on peer champions. We will only achieve our aims by understanding that:

- I. as educators, we should aim to promote sustainability beyond our own operations and into the attitudes and practice of our colleagues and the young people we serve.
- II. as global citizens we must promote the wellbeing of all, however remote, and denounce inequality and suffering in all its forms to all life on earth.
- III. as a social enterprise we should motivate, empower and support colleagues and young people in their passion towards ecology and climate change, encouraging volunteering and charity by providing opportunities to do so
- IV. as estate owners, we must endeavour to make a positive impact on net global sustainability.
- V. sustainability is not a free exercise; it requires work yet it can have corollary economic and competitive benefits. The Trust can only contribute to sustainability if we continue to thrive and manage risk.
- VI. it is not difficult but requires a change in culture and practice.
- VII. we must educate colleagues to change consumption patterns and working practice
- VIII. we must build a strong and resilient framework of practice which is easy to apply and assess in ways which are specific and can be quantified, working towards a whole school culture change.
- IX. as part of a holistic, collective social responsibility, colleagues' and teams' successes should be recognised and affirmed, whilst neglected policy should be identified and given positive support.
- X. the value of informed and studied expertise on complex issues, and that training and CPD programs are essential to good in-house practice and policy.

## **Strategy:**

We will consult with all stakeholders and construct and regularly review a strategy to practice and promote sustainability within our curriculum and operations. This will be rolled out across our organisation to be included in teaching and learning practice and become a KPI within targets to ensure adequate utilisation.

Within that strategy we will endeavour to consider the impact our operations have on the environment, including our:

- educational opportunities by insetting sustainable practice like growing our own veg and sustainable land management, and giving our young people hands-on opportunities to learn about nature, ecology, and the effects of pollution and climate change within our curriculum.
- methodology, using a student-led approach.
- procedures and practice by sharing good ideas to build a framework of good practice and appointing eco-champions within our staff and student bodies and encouraging peer on peer driven change.
- facilities by considering energy sources, energy use, consumables and property development
- procurement activities by considering repurposing and reusing, transport and logistics, reducing shipping miles, and preferring eco-friendly materials and manufacturing
- recruitment and education of staff with skills and passion for the ecology of our planet.
- property portfolio by including sites of ecological value within the trust and developing them to improve their biodiversity and net global impact.

Definitions: Net global impact means a measure of costs and benefits as they affect the globe, attempting to reduce the first and increase the second.

## **Environmental Engagement and Practical Measures:**

To implement our sustainability goals, TAS will take practical steps such as installing compost bins, water butts, recycling bins, motion-activated lighting, and smart energy meters. We will also introduce initiatives like 'No Pen Day,' 'No Meat Mondays,' and the cultivation of our own vegetables, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. By encouraging cycling to school, promoting the use of second-hand furniture, and participating in plastic-free challenges, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future for our school community. Our target is to achieve these sustainability goals by July 2025.

## **Printing Policy:**

Our school will implement a strict printing policy, requiring all documents to pass a point assessment to determine if printing is necessary. This will reduce paper use and encourage digital alternatives, furthering our commitment to sustainability.

### **Community Clean-Up Initiatives:**

We will organise regular clean-up events at local beaches, streets, and canals, involving students, staff, and volunteers. These efforts will be paired with educational sessions on the impact of litter on wildlife and ecosystems, reinforcing the importance of keeping natural spaces clean. By combining hands-on activities with environmental education, we aim to in-still a sense of responsibility in our students toward their local environment.

### **Food Waste Management:**

To tackle food waste, we will track daily lunch participation to better estimate the number of meals needed. Additionally, any food waste will be composted where possible, contributing to our school gardens and reducing landfill contributions

### **Waste Management and Recycling:**

TAS will implement composting systems and provide clearly labeled recycling bins across all campuses, educating students and staff on proper waste sorting and the benefits of composting. To further minimise waste, we will reduce the use of backing paper for display boards, opting instead for recycled fabric or other reusable materials, making sustainability a school-wide initiative.

### **Upcycling and Fundraising:**

Students will be encouraged to participate in upcycling projects, transforming old items into new products for fundraising events. This not only promotes creativity but also teaches valuable lessons about reusing materials and reducing waste. Such projects will reinforce the importance of sustainability and resource conservation within the school community.

### **Sustainable Transportation:**

To reduce carbon emissions, TAS will promote carpooling among students and staff and implement a bike-sharing scheme to encourage cycling as a mode of transport. This initiative will be part of our broader effort to make sustainable transportation a norm within our school community.

### **Creative Recycling Projects:**

We will organise workshops with our art teacher where students can upcycle and repurpose old furniture into useful items like book shelves, cushions or fidget toys, teaching them about textile recycling and general waste providing opportunities for hands-on learning. These projects will enhance students' understanding of recycling and encourage creative problem-solving.

### **Upcycling and Community Involvement:**

We will promote upcycling projects where students can transform old items into new, creative products, which can be sold at fundraising events. Additionally, we will

organise regular clean-up events, engaging the school community in preserving local beaches, streets, and canals, while educating them on the impact of litter on ecosystems.

### **Reusing and Recycling:**

We encourage the reuse of school equipment and supplies by sourcing items from charity shops and donating unused resources back to the community. Cardboard and milk bottles will be repurposed for school projects, and recycling bins will be prominently placed across the campus, with designated eco-friendly roles for students to oversee recycling efforts.

### **Educational Trips and Speaker Engagements:**

TAS will arrange trips to local recycling centres, allowing students to learn first-hand about the recycling process and the importance of waste management. We will also invite environmental experts and professionals to speak about careers in sustainability, inspiring students to consider environmental jobs and furthering their understanding of the field.

### **Awards and Competitions:**

We will encourage participation in environmental awards, such as the David Bellamy Awards, and host sustainability competitions within the school. These activities will motivate students to engage in environmental practices and recognise their efforts toward sustainability.

## **What We Aim to Achieve:**

Our school is dedicated to cultivating a sustainable and environmentally conscious community. By empowering our pupils to lead initiatives, we aim to embed a deep understanding of environmental stewardship into every aspect of school life. Our focus will be on reducing waste, conserving resources, and promoting biodiversity, while providing students with hands-on, practical experiences that inspire them to make lasting, positive changes for the planet.

## **How We Will Achieve**

**Pupil Leadership:** Our sustainability initiatives will be led by students, with a pupil-led sustainability committee planning, implementing, and monitoring our eco-friendly projects.

**Community and Environmental Engagement:** We will organise regular clean-up days at local beaches, encouraging students to actively participate in protecting the natural environment.

**Sustainable Practices:** Initiatives like 'Meat-Free Mondays' and the establishment of gardening areas with polytunnels will integrate sustainable practices into our school culture. Food waste will be managed through wormeries and compost systems, while upcycling and art projects will use waste materials creatively.

**Health and Well-being:** We will promote cycling to school through the Bikability scheme and register as an eco-school, committing to continuous improvement in sustainability practices.

### **Timeline**

**Short-Term (0-6 months):** Establish the sustainability committee, begin clean-up days and upcycling projects, implement Meat-Free Mondays, and participate in the Bikability scheme.

**Mid-Term (6-12 months):** Set up gardening areas, start composting and wormery systems, begin tree planting, and register as an eco-school.

**Long-Term (1 year+):** Expand gardening and upcycling initiatives, develop our eco-school program, and continuously evaluate and refine our sustainability practices.

### **Summary**

By integrating these practices, we aim to achieve significant milestones, such as registering as an eco-school and continuously improving our sustainability practices based on feedback and environmental impact assessments. Our goal is to create a lasting, positive impact on our students, community, and environment, positioning TAS as a leader in sustainability education.

This policy outlines our commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of our school and educating our students on the importance of sustainable practices. Through collective effort, we believe that even small changes can make a significant difference in protecting our planet for future generations.