

P24 – ENVIRONMENTAL

Vision

Whilst we recognise the sheer size of the challenges ahead of us, St Dunstan's College is excited about the future and the opportunities available to make significant and lasting change. Our young people, and their future families, deserve to live their lives in a world that has not been irreversibly changed humanity's negative impact and global warming. We have a vision, as well as a responsibility, to engage, educate, and inspire all our stakeholders to take positive action and improve our natural world as well as the lives of future generations.

Strategic Aims

The overarching aims of this policy are:

1. To reduce the negative impact that our **estates and facilities** have on the environment.
2. To significantly reduce our **carbon footprint**, as part of our journey to becoming carbon neutral.
3. To educate ourselves and others through effective **collaboration, communication, and curriculum** content.

Operational Objectives

To achieve the above strategic aims, we will:

Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective policy is in place, reviewed regularly, reported to key stakeholders and evidenced in practice. • Understand our current environmental performance, analysing and sharing data available to us. • Agree an ambitious target, with required actions, to become a carbon neutral organisation. • Ensure that 'sustainability' is integrated into the planning of all construction and refurbishment projects, including the College's ten-year masterplan
Carbon Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and adopt low carbon technologies in buildings and equipment. • Continuously review and ensure an efficient use of energy. • Develop a carbon management plan to reduce our carbon footprint and improve energy and water efficiency. • Install green energy provision such as PV panels, and learn from the data that building management systems provide. • Liaise with external experts to 'retrofit' existing buildings and achieve carbon neutral targets. • Ensure all new buildings meet BREEAM excellent standards.

Catering Provision, Events and Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with our catering provider to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ catering staff keep food waste to an absolute minimum, by effective menu planning and production, communicating with customers and sharing ‘visual’ waste figures. ○ menus are designed around seasonal availability and locally sourced ingredients that promote plant-based options. ○ best sustainability practise is seen at all times and effective education and communication is taking place with key stakeholders. ○ Single use plastic is removed, and the use of meat reduced. • Remove all single use plastic from events/hospitality, purchase reusable bottles and provide homemade items (rather than plastic wrapped items).
Collaboration, Communication and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective collaboration with external experts and internal Committees to improve our knowledge and understanding. • Raise stakeholder awareness of the environmental challenges we all face and the College’s aims and objectives in addressing these. • Share information through policies, procedures, committees (including GreenSOCS), the curriculum, assemblies, competitions and marketing. • Utilise assemblies, house activities/competitions, video walls, and social media to share information, ‘shock and awe’ messages, and publicise events.
Estates: Property and Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure materials used are as environmentally friendly as possible. • Only use licensed and appropriate organisations for the disposal of waste, selecting sustainable options wherever possible. • Review use of chemicals (fertilisers, pesticides etc.) when maintaining the grounds and sports pitches.
Transport, Vehicles and Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly review the College’s Travel Plan, ensuring a wide range of stakeholder input. • Review and replace current vehicle assets, at appropriate times, with more environmentally friendly alternatives. • Review and implement sustainable transport practices. • Promote public transport and encourage walk/cycle to work, providing secure onsite storage, as well as safe access points into the College. • Use online alternatives for meetings, wherever possible and practical.
Waste Reduction and Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a ‘just don’t waste’ culture. • Explore technologies available to us, to reduce the need for physical resources. • Ensure every class and office has access to paper recycling bins and every communal area has access to recycling bins for batteries and mixed waste. • Stop the use of plastic wrapping on recyclable exercise books. • Ensure food waste is recycled and used to create green energy. • Introduce water butts for grounds maintenance.
Wildlife and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect wildlife on our sites and increase biodiversity in every space possible by providing bird boxes, bug hotels and bee friendly plants. • Leave a minimum of 10% ‘wild’ spaces to attract a vast range of biodiversity. • Deliver a woodland classroom, ensuring regular and effective use whilst educating our younger pupils. • Plant additional trees, wildflower gardens, herb and vegetable plots.

Environmental

Author/s:	Saffron Hutt	Date Reviewed:	Trinity 2024
Date Ratified:	Trinity 2024	Next Review Date:	Trinity 2025
Committee:	Governing Body	Clerk to the Governors Signature:	D Richards 