



Esher Church School



Sustainability Policy

May 2025

Reviewed on: 1st June 2025
Reviewed by: Headteacher/School Business Manager
Review Cycle: Annually
Next review date: 1st June 2026



Esher Church School's Sustainability Policy

The ECS Vision 'Love one another' – John 13:34 is rooted in Christian values of community, wisdom and courage, we aspire to grow in kindness, learn with confidence and make a difference in the world.

Aims

At Esher Church School, we are committed to nurturing a sustainable future for our students, our community, and the environment. Our Sustainability Policy outlines the steps we will take to reduce our ecological footprint, foster respect for nature, and instil sustainable habits in our school community whilst also enabling our children to understand how their actions can make a positive difference in the world around them. This policy will guide our actions in the areas of biodiversity, energy use, waste management, transportation, food practices, and more. We promise to work together to create a greener, more sustainable school for everyone.

1. Biodiversity and Green Spaces.

We commit to developing and maintaining designated areas on our school grounds that promote and support biodiversity. These areas will provide a haven for local wildlife and allow our students to learn about and engage with nature and be involved in the care and maintenance of these green spaces. We will actively encourage the growth of native plants, provide habitats for wildlife, and work to create an environment that supports ecological balance.

2. Sustainable Travel

In order to reduce our carbon footprint, Esher Church School will promote and encourage sustainable travel in the follow ways:

- We will prioritise the use of public transport, walking, or park-and-stride options whenever possible for school trips and events and will encourage families and staff to consider sustainable transport options.
- We shall provide designated safe facilities such as bike and scooter areas.
- We will equip the children with the means to be able to travel safely through expert training such as Feet First Walking Training and Bikeability.

3. Procurement

Our school is committed to reducing waste through responsible purchasing practices.

When making purchases, we will consider whether there is a more sustainable option that we could use when acquiring resources and equipment for our school. Where possible we shall use recycled paper for all printing and classroom activities. Printer and photocopying waste toner will be recycled. In addition, we will purchase recycled toilet rolls where possible, reducing our reliance on new materials and minimising waste.

4. Energy Efficiency

Esher Church School is dedicated to reducing its energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency. Our energy-saving initiatives include:



- The installation of motion-activated lighting systems to ensure that lights are only on when needed.
- A “switch off ” rule to be embedded across the school for devices and lights when not in use in rooms.
- Power management features on electrical devices to minimise energy waste.
- Using greener energy suppliers wherever possible to reduce our school's carbon footprint.
- Ensuring that windows remain free from displays to maximise natural lighting and reduce the need for artificial lighting.
- Making sure radiators are not blocked by furniture to allow for efficient heating throughout the school.

5. Renewable Energy

We are committed to exploring and, where feasible, implementing renewable energy sources on-site. This includes the use of solar panels and may include the installation of additional sustainable technologies that generate clean energy, reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources.

6. Food and Waste Management

At Esher Church School, we understand the importance of reducing food waste and making healthy sustainable food choices. Our food policy includes:

- Regular meat-free days for the whole school to encourage plant-based eating and reduce the environmental impact of animal agriculture.
- Offering pre-ordered daily options for school dinners that reduce food waste and also provide vegetarian options daily.

We aim for all food waste produced within the school to be recycled and diverted from landfill. We will ensure that organic waste is either composted or recycled off site, contributing to a more sustainable waste management system. Students and staff will be encouraged to participate in this process, promoting awareness and responsibility for waste reduction.

7. Single- use plastic reduction.

We will implement the following measures to reduce the use of single-use plastics and ensure that our waste management practices are environmentally friendly. We will limit the use of single-use plastics in food preparation and learning activities. This includes reducing plastic packaging and encouraging the use of reusable containers for food storage and distribution. We will promote alternatives such as biodegradable or recyclable materials wherever possible.

To further reduce our environmental footprint, Esher Church Primary School will enforce a **complete ban on the use of glitter and helium balloons**. These items are harmful to the environment, as glitter can contaminate ecosystems and helium balloons can cause dangers to wildlife. We will actively encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives in both school activities and celebrations.

Through these efforts, we aim to not only reduce our reliance on single-use plastics but also foster an awareness of sustainability that will help our students and staff become active participants in protecting our planet.



8. Whole School Community Involvement

We believe that sustainability is a shared responsibility and that every member of the school community plays a vital role. Through active involvement, learning, and engagement, we will promote sustainability initiatives across the community and encourage students, staff, and families to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. Parents/Carers and community members with relevant expertise will be invited to support the development of the school environment.

By following this Sustainability Policy, we aim to ensure that Esher Church School becomes a model of environmental stewardship. Together, we will work to safeguard our planet for future generations.

This policy will be reviewed annually, with input from all stakeholders, to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a more sustainable future.