

Looe Community Academy - Environmental and Sustainability Plan

Policy Statement

The Academy necessarily consumes natural and manmade resources in order to fulfil its purpose of providing education in a safe, secure and stimulating educational environment.

The Academy recognises that every decision incurs a cost that is not just financial. Strategic, operational and daily decisions influence the level of resource consumption with the resultant impact, or cost, to the environment.

This plan aims to embed environmental sustainability as a consideration in all of our decision-making.

The over-riding principles are to:

- avoid consumption wherever possible by questioning the need, seeking alternative solutions or accepting that the environmental or sustainability impact outweighs the perceived benefits;
- acquire pre-used or re-purposed resources instead of brand new;
- reduce our resource consumption to the lowest possible level, avoiding waste or extravagance;
- re-use, re-purpose or pass on (sell or donate) our resources once their original purpose ends;
- recycle any remaining resources.

Our Plan

Through a programme of education and the provision of valid and relevant information, students and staff will be empowered to make decisions and choices that include the conscious consideration of the environmental and sustainability aspects.

Our approvals process for financial expenditure will include consideration of the non-financial benefits of each option in relation to the environment and sustainability.

Our contracts will place an obligation on the supplier to recognise our environment and sustainability aims and values and to support us in achieving them.

Objectives for AY2022/23

Engage students in further developing this plan and establishing our key priorities.

Raise student and staff awareness:

- educate students through our PSHCE curriculum;
- educate and inform our students so that they feel empowered to educate their families and others in the community about environment and sustainability issues and actions;
- educate and inform staff and students through a series of “environmental bites” in the weekly Bulletin;
- educate staff around the language of environmental and sustainability issues via the online learning platform.

Appoint environmental and sustainability champions for each house (students and staff) to encourage student voice and staff suggestions and to act as the conduit.

Consider an environmental and sustainability committee of staff and students.

Install metering across the estate so we can gather consumption data in order to identify areas or times in the day when consumption is high, to better understand where we need to target our equipment and behavioural improvements. (Project under development)

Install LED lighting across the estate. (Progress made)

Install motion sensors for lighting across the estate.

Maintain our ponds so that wildlife can thrive. (Progress made)

Maintain our extensive green space to maximise the impact of our rural setting and natural environment. (Progress made via rewilding project)

Maintain our existing trees so that they may thrive. (Ongoing)

Plant more trees on our estate and assist in tree planting projects across our community. (Progress made – credit: Mr Holland)

Investigate the wider environmental benefits of meat-free days and if the evidence is secure, consult with students to introduce meat-free days to our menu cycle.

Abstain from Christmas crackers to avoid the unnecessary waste and investigate alternative ways of celebrating during our Christmas lunch.

Encourage students to reduce the number of car journeys to and from the Academy where there are safe alternatives, such as walking, cycling or public transport.

Past Achievements

In looking ahead to what we might do, we should not lose sight of what we have already achieved; this section records our achievements to data and credits those that have driven or championed the change.

All computers that are left on by users who do not follow our policy of shutting down after use are now forced to turn off at 1800 via a software script – credit: Mr Lees

The Academy generates its own compost from food waste, clippings and other compostable materials – credit: Mr Holland

The Academy has planted several trees in our grounds – credit: Mr Holland

The Academy has a few areas that use LED lighting – credit: Mr Minnette

The Academy has replaced some permanent external lighting with motion sensor lighting – credit: Mr Minnette

The Academy has stopped using inefficient halogen lighting on the Astro pitch and now use LED lighting – credit: Mr Minnette

The catering contract dramatically reduces the use of single-use plastics or polystyrene and provides for alternative drinks dispensing to reduce the need for plastic bottles – credit: student voice

Staff at the Academy were provided with separate bins to segregate paper and cardboard for recycling – credit: SPLAT team (Sustainability Project for Looe Academy Trust – 2014)

Install insulation in flat roofs and replace single-glazed windows with double-glazing to prevent heat loss – credit: Mr Green

The previous (2015-18) and current (2018-21) photocopier contracts have significantly reduced the volume of paper wasted by installing Papercut software, which requires users to release their printing from a device. This allows erroneous print jobs to be cancelled and any work not released within 24 hours is automatically deleted. Previously, every print job was printed, but several reams of paper per week were never collected – credit: Mr Green

Beyond the Academy our students have engaged in beach cleans and assisted local volunteers with litter collections around the town – credit: our students

We have installed new, higher efficiency water boilers in the main building and in the Sports Hall – credit: Mr Green

We have installed 2 new, high efficiency steam ovens in the canteen – credit: Mr Green

We have replaced our minibus with a newer model that has improved fuel consumption – credit: Mr Green

We have replaced our projectors with those that use LED bulbs and consume far less power – credit: Mr Lees

We have agreed to host a donations bank in support of the British Heart Foundation, which meets our overriding principle to “re-use, re-purpose or pass on (sell or donate) our resources once their original purpose ends”. It also allows the community to donate their unwanted items in order to ensure they have the opportunity to be re-used or re-purposed, as well as raise funds for a worthy cause – credit: Mr Green

Change refuse company to “Zero to Landfill” – credit: Mr Minnette

Our catering contract with Chartwells ensures that we leverage the environmental benefits stated in the statement of requirement, e.g. for reduced single-use plastics – credit: Mr Green

We now have governor representation within a formal meeting for environmental issues, which has been incorporated via the Academy’s Health, Safety, Wellbeing *and Environmental* Committee

We have fenced off the woods and started our rewilding project, which involves leaving certain grassed areas uncut. As well as looking great with a vast range of colour and textures and a constant stream of visiting birds and butterflies, this has prompted some noticeable “firsts”:

- first buzzard on site (now a regular visitor)
- first cockchafer beetle found
- first redpole bird spotted
- first woodpecker seen
- first owl heard
- first wild seeded saplings established (oak, hazel and sycamore)

– credit: Mr Green