



**Aspire Believe Achieve**

**Ready Respect Safe**

# **Arnold View Primary School**

## **ECO Policy**

Policy Reviewed (Date): February 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Head Teacher) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Review Due (Date): February 2027

## **Introduction**

Arnold View Primary School is committed to educate everyone about how to care and respect the environment. We help to develop them into considerate citizens who are able to make valuable decisions. The Eco Committee at Arnold View has a key role in achieving this and is an important part of our Eco-Schools programme. The Eco Committee represents the whole school community.

### **Arnold View Primary School Eco Committee purposes:**

- To ensure a whole school approach about caring for the environment.
- To give pupils responsibilities and promote team work.
- To develop pupils' skills in their decision making process.
- To develop an awareness of environmental issues.
- To develop a structure to implement the national Eco-Schools Programme in the school.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the Eco Schools Programme at Arnold View Primary School are:

- To become more sustainable in the school environment and reduce the environmental impact of the whole school on our planet
- Promote environmental awareness.
- To develop an awareness of global issues.
- To develop a whole school approach in promoting environmental awareness – pupils, all staff, governors, parents and members of the local community.
- To help to create a shared understanding of what is needed in order to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.
- To help develop pupils' decision – making skills.
- To link environmental issues in with the curriculum as well as the daily running life of the school.

In our experience, educators and young people care deeply about environmental issues and have a strong desire to actively protect our planet. However, environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity-loss, or plastic pollution are huge global issues and the thought of tackling them can be intimidating, leaving many feeling overwhelmed and wondering 'Where do I begin?'

The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple, framework that answers this question whilst empowering young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond. The steps are Bronze, Silver and then the Green Flag Award. The Bronze and Silver awards are achieved through self- assessment and the Green Flag Award is completed by an Eco – Schools assessor.

Since 1994, millions of young people around the world have worked through the Eco-Schools Steps before being recognised for their efforts with a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Schools connect their activities to three or more of the Ten Eco-Schools Topics. These topics break large, global issues like climate change into more manageable and directed themes that prompt young people to consider environmental changes that they can make in their school and everyday lives.

### **Eco-Schools Programme**

Arnold View Primary School is a member of the Eco – Schools Programme. This is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with the environment and sustainable development issues. It provides a highly structured system for the environmental management of schools. The structure of the Eco Schools process is made up of seven elements and this forms the basis of the programme. The seven elements include:

- The Eco Committee
- The Environmental Review
- The Action Plan
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Involve and inform the wider community

- Eco Code

The Eco Committee is the key part in implementing the other elements. These elements are:

- Litter
- Waste minimisation
- Energy
- Transport
- Healthy Living
- Water
- School grounds
- Global Citizenship

The adult members of the Eco Committee recruit children from each Key Stage to become members of the Eco Committee and everyone meets together regularly. The children are the main driving force behind the Eco Committee once they become familiar with what being a member entails and are supported by the adult members. The first task for the Eco Committee, at the beginning of the school year, is to carry out an Environmental review. From this an action plan for the coming year can be devised. The curriculum is also integrated. Progress is then evaluated and improvements are monitored. The Eco Committee needs to inform the wider community of their actions. The Eco Committee produces an Eco Code which is agreed with the rest of the school which is agreed with the rest of the school which reflects their aims and ethos. The pupils play an important part of the scheme and become involved in participation and decision making to help improve the school environment. Eco – Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible citizens beyond school. The Eco – Schools Programme has three levels of awards: Bronze, Silver and then the Green Flag Award. There is criteria set for each of the awards that schools need to meet in order to achieve the award.

The Bronze and Silver awards are achieved through self- assessment and the Green Flag Award is completed by an Eco – Schools assessor. The Green Flag Award is re assessed and renewed every year. The Eco Committee consists of pupils from F2 to Year 6. Two pupils from each year group represent their class, pupils volunteer for selection which is then

decided by the Eco lead. At the start of the academic year, at the initial meeting, all year groups are involved and pupils are made aware of their roles and the responsibilities.

At Arnold View Primary School we aim to maintain Eco Schools meetings regularly, any suggestions from their class are discussed. It is the responsibility of the Eco Schools Committee and the Eco- Lead to ensure an environmental review and action plan are planned and carried out at the beginning of each academic year. The topics from the Eco Schools programme will be used in focusing on actions and the notice board/ Eco Schools display are kept up to date with examples of evidence. The Eco Code will also need to be reviewed and amended if appropriate after the environmental review and action plan have been completed. The Eco School Committee members are responsible for reporting back to their class about activities related to caring for the environment. All Eco projects are highlighted on our Whole School Dojo page, website and termly Newsletters. Parents and carers are invited to join in with as many of our projects as possible.

### **The Curriculum**

Arnold View Primary School aim to link Eco-Schools activities into the curriculum in different ways. Activities will be incorporated into lessons that link in with the action plan covering different curricular areas to embrace a cross curricular approach.

### **Implementation and monitoring**

The Head Teacher and Eco- Lead will monitor the ethos and culture of the school to ensure it reflects a school that values caring for the environment and it is a whole school approach.

- To participate in and follow the Eco – Schools Scheme.
- To complete Action Plans each academic year.
- To monitor and implement national and local initiatives when they arise.

### **The Role of the Eco-Lead**

- To update the policy.
- To participate in the Eco – Schools Scheme.
- To apply for the Green Flag Award.

- To keep staff informed of actions and new developments.
- To coordinate focus environment days.
- To involve outside agencies.

### **Inclusion**

All pupils, regardless of race, gender, culture or disability shall have opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of caring for their environment and develop a caring attitude. Provision for Special Educational Needs Educating children about caring for the environment forms part of our school policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. All children will be included in activities related to caring for the environment and teachers will differentiate activities to meet the needs of the children. Health and Safety Health and safety issues will be considered in all activities and relate to the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Policy to be reviewed every two years.