

074 Environmental Education

Responsibility: CGJ

Date: November 2017

Next Review: June 2020

“The significant problems that exist today cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”

Albert Einstein

The Environment Education policy of Holmfirth High School can be divided into four main sections:

- School Ethos
- Litter
- Care of the school environment
- Educating pupils on the environment

1. School Ethos

1.1 Aims

Holmfirth High School is committed to achieving love and respect for the environment and the world around us. We strive to develop pupil knowledge and understanding of the natural world and its importance. We endeavour to raise awareness and educate students on current and future global concerns. Holmfirth High School will educate pupils and staff on the actions that are needed to protect and value what we have and what we take for granted. All pupils should have the opportunity to learn and act upon environmental issues.

1.2 Policy

- To get pupils, staff and the community to understand the importance of recycling and sustainability to develop and continue ‘good behaviour.’
- To work alongside the community and Local Authority on environmental matters.
- To encourage staff to introduce sustainability into their teaching and learning wherever possible.
- To encourage departments to devise Scheme of Work that focus on environmental issues.
- To assess the resources that are available or that can be created for lessons supporting teaching and learning.
- To allow pupils to take an active role in the sustainable future at Holmfirth High School.
- Buy recycled products as appropriate.

1.3 We must endeavour to ensure that:

- Pupils see sustainability and recycling as the ‘norm.’
- Staff lead by example and are seen to actively and positively recycle.
- Pupils are recycling paper in the allocated bins.
- Staff encourage pupils to recycle plastic water bottles after use.
- Raw food waste is recycled after pupils have completed a practical food technology lesson and pupils take control of this responsibility focusing on hygiene at all times.

1.4 Holmfirth High School will try to recycle by:

- Filling allocated classroom recycling bins with paper, card, cardboard, plastic and where appropriate raw food waste.
- Pupils taking responsibility in removing this waste when necessary to designated recycling bins for collection by the local authority.
- Removing larger paper, card or cardboard items that can be recycled into the paper skip on the schools premises.

2. Litter

2.1 Aims

The school aims to provide and maintain a clean, healthy and pleasant learning environment, both within and outside the school buildings.

2.2 Policy

- Holmfirth High School enjoys an attractive rural setting but the buildings, hard-standing areas and planted areas can be spoilt by large amounts of litter. The overall aim of the policy is to eventually change people's attitudes to littering.
- Pupils and staff should use all bins provided.
- Staff should ensure that all classrooms are left in a tidy, clean and workable state after each and every lesson.
- All rooms to be free of litter/paper at the end of lessons and the end of the day;
- Pupils are encouraged to develop a positive attitude by picking up any items of litter. Staff to lead by example.
- Pupils seen to drop litter are reprimanded.
- For staff to raise the issue of litter in form periods and curriculum areas.
- To have annual "litter sweeps".
- To encourage the catering suppliers to use low litter products.
- To provide, maintain and empty litter bins on the school site and to collect any litter on a daily basis.
- Corridors should be litter free and pupils should dispose of any waste in the appropriate bins provided around school.

2.3 We must continue to review the litter situation and act upon any problems immediately. Holmfirth High School will continue to research into alternative disposal methods and invest in suitable choices.

2.4 This is a long-term aim and will only be brought about by a concerted effort of all adults and students. It is hoped that through assemblies, display and curriculum work, pupils will begin to display respect for the school and grounds and to have a sense of ownership. Pupils learn by example, both from peers and adults. All staff must display a positive attitude to both preventing litter and to remedial action when littering occurs.

3. Care of the school environment

3.1 Aims

The school aims to provide and maintain an attractive, clean and eye catching learning environment that pupils, staff and the local community are proud of.

3.2 Policy

- Pupils should not deliberately damage school property.
- Pupils should be reprimanded for such behaviour and where possible to make good the damage done.
- Pupils should be encouraged and rewarded in reporting graffiti or incidents of vandalism.

- Notices should be displayed in designated boards in the corridors.
- Such notices should be appealing to pupils, staff and the local community and reflect the ethos of our school.
- Classrooms should be left in a clean, tidy and organised state.
- Staff are asked to display pupils' work and to make their rooms as attractive as possible.
- Caretaking staff are asked to rectify any defects as soon as possible.

4. Educating pupils on the environment

4.1 Aims

Environment Education aims to give pupils' knowledge and understanding of the earth's life, support systems, and to study the links between the quality of the environment and its exploitation to satisfy human needs. It also wants students to appreciate their role in protecting and improving their environment, both locally and globally, and to stimulate them to realise this role.

4.2 Policy

All pupils have a right to receive Environmental Education. The programme for Environmental Education will be delivered through other curriculum subjects e.g. Science, Geography, and will:

- Be cross-curricular in nature.
- Provide first hand experience of, and practical activities in, the local environment and further afield.
- Help pupils discover the ecological principles, processes and inter-relationships on which living things depend.
- Enable pupils to be aware that the current state of the environment has resulted from past decisions and actions and to discover the symptoms, causes and possible solutions to environmental problems.
- Help pupils understand that their own actions affect the environment and that they can play a part in protecting, maintaining and improving the quality of the environment.
- Allow pupils to understand the importance of finite resources.
- Invite visiting speakers into the school during assemblies etc. to inform and educate the pupils on up to date issues and how they can help make changes.

4.3 The Environmental Education policy is reflected in the school's ethos, and is manifested in the actions and responses of adults, as well as the quality of the environment in which pupils work.

4.4 The school will prepare young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through its teaching, fabric and its day-to-day practices including:

- Care for oneself (our health and well-being);
- Care for each other (across cultures, distances and generations);
- Care for the environment (both locally and globally).

The implementation of this policy and the achievement of its aims can only be realised with the whole-hearted efforts of all staff and pupils and everyone associated with the school. Hopefully we will see a change people's behaviour regarding sustainability, to see preserving, reusing and recycling as the 'norm' and to improve people's lifestyles.