



Sustainable Schools

The future holds many challenges for young people, such as climate change, the rise of obesity, and global poverty. It is clear that our current model of development and use of resources is placing an increasing burden on the planet and we need to make a decisive move to sustainable development.

Schools have a special role to play. As places of learning, they can help pupils understand our impact on the planet; and become places where sustainable living and working is demonstrated to young people and the community. To achieve this, the Government has set an aim for all schools to be Sustainable Schools by 2020.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

What concerns me most about the world? . . .



***“I do not like how people think
that everything will last forever.”***

Pupil response to Sustainable Schools consultation.

What is a Sustainable School?

A Sustainable School prepares young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through its teaching, fabric and its day-to-day practices. It is guided by a commitment to care:

- Care for ourselves (our health and well-being);
- Care for others (across cultures, distances and generations); and
- Care for the planet (both locally and globally).

A Sustainable School puts a high value on the well-being of its pupils and the school environment. It is also a great place to learn, where pupils develop self-esteem and reach high standards of achievement. You might notice things such as:

- Little is wasted and anything surplus is recycled, composted or donated;
- The school supports local suppliers where it can;
- Rainwater is collected for school grounds maintenance; and
- A zero-tolerance approach to litter, graffiti and bullying.

Following a public consultation, the 2006/07 academic year is a Year of Action on sustainable development for schools. Schools are encouraged to draw on the range of resources being made available, and can get involved in events and competitions such as a new Sustainable Schools category in the annual Teaching Awards.

Support for schools

A dedicated area of TeacherNet provides a focus for schools' activities. The DfES and partners are creating a range of engaging and informative resources for schools. These will allow schools and pupils to work on 'real' issues relating to the school curriculum, campus and community; motivate pupils and help raise achievement.

Schools can already draw on the National Framework for Sustainable Schools, and on the s3 tool¹ that helps them assess their current practices, plan next steps, and record the benefits on their Ofsted Self-Evaluation Form. Other resources include assembly plans for each 'doorway' of the National Framework, guidance for governors to improve the sustainable operation of their schools, a 'pupil detective kit' for Key Stages 2 and 3, and a teacher resource pack with schemes of work linked to the National Curriculum.

¹ www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools/s3

National Framework

The DfES National Framework² for Sustainable Schools identifies eight 'doorways' through which schools may choose to initiate or extend their sustainable school activity. Each clarifies where the Government would like schools to be by the year 2020. Although every school will start from a different place, with different priorities and needs, all schools can take action to meet these expectations.

| Doorway | By 2020 we recommend that . . . |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Food and drink | all schools are model suppliers of healthy, local and sustainable food and drink |
| Energy and water | all schools are models of energy efficiency, renewable energy use and water management |
| Travel and traffic | all schools are models of sustainable travel |
| Purchasing and waste | all schools are models of waste minimisation and sustainable procurement |
| Buildings and grounds | all school buildings make visible use of sustainable design features and develop their grounds in ways that help pupils learn about the natural world and sustainable living |
| Inclusion and participation | all schools are models of social inclusion, enabling all pupils to participate fully in school life |
| Local well-being | all schools are models of good corporate citizenship within their local areas |
| Global dimension | all schools are models of good global citizenship |

What concerns me most about the world? . . .



“A lot of people are just throwing things on the ground without noticing, Also I think that people should do less driving and more walking.”

Pupil response to Sustainable Schools consultation.

² www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/framework

If I was Prime Minister I would. . .

“Make sure that all communities have the best possible recycling facilities that they can. Make sure there is more renewable energy. Make sure that everyone in the world has a good supply of water.”

Pupil response to Sustainable Schools consultation

Further information

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

The Sustainable Schools area of TeacherNet supports schools on their journey to sustainability, by offering guidance on how to embed the principles of sustainable development into the heart of school life, and providing useful resources and information for all sectors of the school community. It includes:

- online and downloadable tools and teaching resources;
- details of professional development opportunities;
- suggestions of places to visit;
- details of relevant organisations and programmes;
- information about funding streams;
- the latest news and events; and
- case studies and inspirational images.

Contact us

If you have any questions email:
sustainable.schools@dfes.gsi.gov.uk.

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Eco-schools: www.eco-schools.org.uk
Extended schools: www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools
Every Child Matters: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
Global Gateway: www.globalgateway.org.uk
Growing Schools: www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools
Healthy Schools: www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk
International schools: www.britishcouncil.org/education/schools/award.htm
Learning to Last: www.learning2last.org
WWF Pathways: www.wwflearning.org.uk/data/files/pathways-310.pdf
also available as an online interactive version at:
www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/wwftool

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