



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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Poverest Primary School is committed to becoming an environmentally friendly and sustainable school. We aim to enhance the progress made towards becoming a sustainable school by reducing the school's ecological footprint and embedding sustainable practices in our everyday lives. At Poverest, we pledge to ensure that the children understand their roles and responsibilities in looking after the school environment whilst allowing them to have leadership on how they can lead more sustainable lifestyles in everyday life. By raising awareness throughout the school, we aim to encourage and engage staff, parents and children to learn more about the impact that we have, so we can all gain the necessary knowledge to move forward and create a better future.

As a whole school community, we are excited and committed to raising the profile of sustainability at Poverest by integrating the subject into the curriculum. With increased awareness of sustainable living, we believe that it will support and promote students' moral, social and cultural development. Creating an environment where children at Poverest can have first-hand experiences and practical learning is crucial, as it helps build a bank of knowledge and allows the children to develop an understanding of ways to tackle environmental issues and promote a sustainable way of living. Having well-planned and resourced activities allows the children to immerse themselves in their learning, which then helps them to create a deeper understanding and relationship with the environment and how their choices and actions can support a more sustainable way to live.

At Poverest, we are increasing the understanding of sustainability by:

- Creating an Eco Council - providing children with a voice. This allows the children to discuss any concerns or ideas that they have, which then allows us as a collective to help make a change.
- All staff and children are involved in a team effort to recycle paper and card. Recycling bins are accessible in all rooms. Rules of what can be recycled are advised throughout the school. The Eco Warriors at Poverest are elected members from each class who help to ensure the correct items are placed into the bins.
- Recycling Batteries - there is a recycling batteries bin in the office for all to use.
- Awareness days are delivered to the children educating them and improving their understanding of the topic.
- Compost areas – These are located in the upper and lower playgrounds to allow children to get rid of waste into the correct bins. The food waste bin is then transported to the compost bin to be used in the school garden. Children are then made aware of the benefits and positive impacts that they can use outside the school.
- Gardening club – The forest School leader facilitates the club creating awareness by allowing the children to grow fruit and vegetables.
- Local environment – as part of being a healthy school, we encourage families to walk, bike or scoot to school through the smart movers scheme.
- Eco-School Status – which both celebrates and builds upon our eco-schools green flag status.
- Big Plastic Count - Raising awareness through the school taking part in a Nationwide scheme to reduce the amount of plastic we throw and recycle.
- Smart Movers - Children are encouraged to walk/cycle/bike to school and gain badges each month for doing so.

We are a Kapow school and use Kapow planning for all foundation subjects. Kapow are dedicated to educating children about the significance of sustainability and the part we can all play in addressing environmental issues. Kapow consistently incorporates lessons on sustainability into the curriculum, seizing every opportunity to enlighten and engage young minds on this vital topic, through a range of subjects.

#### Curriculum Links with Sustainability:

- Biodiversity - Increasing the level of plant, animal and insect life on the school site, locally and globally.
- Energy - Considering and reducing our energy use in school and at home, changing to more sustainable energy sources, where possible.
- Global citizenship - Taking an active role in the local community, working together to make the planet more peaceful, sustainable and fair.
- Healthy Living - Recognising the link between their own health and that of the planet, by encouraging children to consider links between nature and healthy living.
- Litter - Taking action to reduce the impacts litter has on the school site and local community.
- Marine - Working to protect and conserve water-based ecosystems.
- School grounds - Improving the setting for students, staff, plants, animals or insects in the school grounds.
- Transport - Promoting sustainable transport use to cut carbon emissions.
- Waste - Promoting the waste hierarchy to ensure as little waste as possible is sent to landfill.
- Water - Valuing and preserving our most important natural resource.

Children at Poverest will be highly aware of the impact of environmental changes and what they can do to help their future, by voicing their opinions to their class Eco Warrior who can then take responsibility and help create ownership of their ideas. We aim to educate children so they act as models of best practice within their local communities. They will help others reap similar benefits and create awareness to the whole school community and spread further awareness to the outside community. With children at Poverest gaining an increased awareness towards sustainability, this allows them to improve habits and lifestyle choices which help to impact their local and global environment.