



SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

Carbon Neutral and Sustainability Policy

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Aims and Ethos

Surbiton High School aims to **inspire, encourage and empower** all its students to discover and embrace their individual talents, within United Learning's core mission to bring out "the best in everyone". We combine an intellectually rigorous academic environment with outstanding pastoral care and outstanding co-curricular opportunities; through this provision, we encourage our students to live out our **School values**, and become compassionate, respectful, courageous, and inquisitive members of the community.

Our Values

We are compassionate:

We are kind and we care, in both thought and action. We consider those less fortunate and strive to support and offer aid. We are mindful of the gentle power of positive actions. We support and encourage those around us, living out the School's motto: *Amor nos semper ducat* (May love always lead us).

We are respectful:

We respect all people equally. We respect ourselves, our learning, our community, our environment, and the planet we all share. We strive to act with respect and integrity in all things. When we disagree, we do so respectfully.

We are courageous:

When challenged by our fears we are determined, not deterred. We call on resilience for strength when in the heat of the struggle. We bravely chase our dreams and fight for what we believe. When we fall, we pick ourselves up and forge forward.

We are inquisitive:

We understand that a thoughtful question is the key to unlock understanding. We believe where answers provide ends, questions pose exciting beginnings. We are eager to explore, we question to discover, we are curious to learn more of the world at large.

We are a community:

We are united - with a common focus. We value belonging to a wider community: our school community, our local community, our global community. We are inclusive of all, no matter our differences. We value and nurture the connections we form.

United Learning and the United Church Schools' Trust

Surbiton High School is part of *United Learning* and the *United Church Schools' Trust*. The School has an Anglican foundation, valuing its Christian heritage whilst welcoming staff and children from all faiths and none. We share with United Learning its core mission statement "to bring out the best in everyone". We are committed to the aims of United Learning, including its *Framework for Excellence*, which can be found at: www.unitedlearning.org.uk



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Policy Statement

The role of the School is to prepare our young people with diverse backgrounds and strengths, for a life of learning, leadership and personal growth. The Carbon Neutral and Sustainability Policy seeks to support the development of our students by ensuring that Surbiton High School meets the requirements of the United Learning Sustainability Policy and its commitment to reduce the carbon emissions associated with our operations, towards our goal of carbon neutral by 2030.

Aims

- To shape Surbiton High School as an organisation recognised for its excellent environmental awareness.
- To produce a sustainable School for the future, to provide learning opportunities, both formal and informal to maximise the carbon neutral and sustainability literacy of the students, staff, parental body, and wider community.
- To ensure that the School's carbon footprint is fully or partially offset and to investigate the implementation of a carbon management programme with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Strategic Aims:

- Environmental Impact of Buildings and Management of Grounds
- Teaching and Learning
- Carbon Emissions elimination, reduction and offsetting

From these aims, where possible, measurable objectives and targets will be established covering a rolling 3–5-year period. The Carbon Neutral Champion will work in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Operations, Facilities Manager and the Head of Finance as well as Heads of Year, Catering contractors, Prep Schools, LGB, Parent Association and Kingston Council and other stakeholders to achieve these aims and those of UL's Sustainability Policy.

Objectives

To measure the environmental impact of a range of activities in order to establish where improvements can be achieved.

This will be achieved by investigating the following:

- Measurement and monitoring of the carbon footprint of all activities carried out by SHS including the Prep Schools and all associated sites
- Carbon emissions management, reduction and offset
- Waste Management
- Carbon footprint Impact Assessment for trips and visits
- Sustainable Travel
- Water Management
- Biodiversity management at all sites but particularly Hinchley Wood and Oaken Lane



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- Sustainable Purchasing
- The inclusion of sustainability and carbon footprint reduction in any renovation or construction projects and where possible maintenance activities (assessed for green design possibilities)
- Social responsibility and communication to the wider community

Carbon Emissions Management and Offset

Aim: To determine the carbon footprint of all activities carried out by SHS including the Prep Schools and all associated sites to analyse the impact that different actions and activities have on changing carbon emissions. To reduce the energy consumption to lower the carbon footprint and investigate methods to offset remaining consumption levels. To support and potentially invest in initiatives which generate renewable energy or offset carbon emissions to be used to offset any residual carbon emissions which cannot be eliminated otherwise.

- From October 2020, United Learning moved all Schools onto a 100% renewables energy tariff and here the electrical energy supplied to the School comes from Bryt Energy. However, due to the age and structure of the building it is fair to assume that a large proportion of the energy usage is 'wasted'. This therefore is a key area for improvement and a focus to ensure all windows and doorways are reducing energy loss, not increasing it.
- Investigate any immediate impacts that could be made by making savings using tried and tested energy-saving technology such as LED lightbulbs.

Waste Management

Aim: To ensure the legal disposal of waste whilst attempting to reduce overall waste by reusing and recycling materials where possible. Increasing the level of recycling on site by re-installation of recycle bins, as well as increasing the volume and type of waste being recycled on site.

- To increase the level of recycling taking place by ensuring that the students and staff are informed and supported to make good decisions regarding litter, to ensure there are appropriately labelled recycling bins available and to review the waste produced by the canteen.
- To aim for a year-on-year reduction in waste figures per annum and an increase in the proportion of waste which is recycled
- Investigate whether it is possible to recycle other materials which school is not currently recycling e.g., soft plastics, glass
- Investigate whether supplier packaging materials can be reused, returned to suppliers, offered to staff or otherwise donated rather than being disposed of
- Investigate whether unwanted furniture, equipment and books can be donated to other schools or organisations rather than being disposed of
- Review possibility of food waste reduction working with catering contractors



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Carbon Footprint Impact Assessment (CFIA) for trips and visits.

Aim: To ensure that staff are aware of the carbon footprint and potential environmental impacts of their trip so that they ensure other sustainable plans are fully investigated to reduce adverse impacts.

- This requires a staff buy-in, which in itself poses some problems due to time-pressure and ensuring workload is not added to negatively
- To support staff through a CFIA that should be read as part of the risk assessment
- For staff planning trips to investigate alternative methods of travel such as public transport
- For staff planning residential trips, to minimise and if possible, eliminate the use of long-haul flights by choosing destinations in the UK or Europe and to determine how the carbon emissions due to the trip will be offset.

Sustainable Travel

Aim: To provide as many alternatives to single occupancy vehicle (SOV) use as possible through improvements to infrastructure for cycling, walking, car sharing and using public transport. To relieve pressure on existing car parking space.

- To review the level of SOV of both the staff and sixth form students to calculate carbon-footprint
- To increase numbers of staff and students using more sustainable methods of travel and in particular cycling or walking to work by
 - Increasing lockable cycle storage space
 - Ensuring staff and students have locker facilities to store clothing if cycling
 - Encouraging staff and students to walk or use public transport
 - Investigating a rota-based parking system based on need
 - Maximising the adoption of lower carbon fuels in School vehicles.
 - Encouraging car sharing
 - Encouraging the use of electric vehicles
 - Encouraging visitors to use public transport

Water Management

Aim: To reduce the amount of water wasted due to taps left running and slow leaks from fixtures and fittings and achieve savings by ensuring water-saving devices (push taps, leak detection) are in place throughout the School sites.

- Educate the students on methods to reduce waste water
- Ensure all taps, toilets, showers are regularly inspected to reduce the potential of leaks
- Regularly review the volume of water used



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Biodiversity Management at Hinchley Wood and Oaken Lane and other sites

Aim: To improve the biodiversity of trees and plants in our natural sites at Hinchley Wood and Oaken Lane to increase and protect the diversity of habitats available and to enrich the woodland biodiversity. To identify whether there is any possibility of using the site to introduce natural or manmade elements to be able to offset some of our carbon emissions.

- Procurement and installation of plants and greenery for the quad spaces in School. These not only offset the carbon that we produce but also work to clean the air for the students. Working with the Green Fingers Club at the Senior School as well as willing volunteers at the Girls' and Boys' Prep to increase the number of plants and trees.
- Work with the Facilities team to increase the biodiversity of plants in our wooded area at Hinchley Wood and Oaken Lane
- Installation of bug hotels, bird and bat boxes
- Collaborate with the Woodland Trust to obtain trees that would enhance the area and have a positive impact on habitat diversity and eradicate invasive non-native species to allow for better growth and development of existing plant species
- Set up a more comprehensive and environmentally positive area for the prep 'Forest Schools'

Sustainable Purchasing

Aim: To ensure that Surbiton High School is committing money in as environmentally and socially responsible a manner as possible whilst also supporting ethical investment. To investigate opportunities to purchase recycled supplies or from eco-aware suppliers

- Work with suppliers to reduce our collective carbon footprint by initiatives such as:
 - Using paperless documentation e.g., delivery notes and invoices
 - Reduce packaging materials and where possible use packing materials which are made of recycled materials and/or can be reused or recycled
 - Combining deliveries so fewer journeys are made
 - Minimising face to face meetings with suppliers
- Buying Paper and card for reprographics made from recycled paper – that is of a high enough quality to be used in the printers.
- Discuss with Marketing team movement to interactive prospectus, Co-curricular booklet and The Surbiton Journal
- Ensure any events or celebrations have investigated the possibility of using eco-aware suppliers and where possible use QR codes so attendees can access information digitally.

Carbon Neutral Design Possibilities



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Aim: To consider the carbon footprint of any new builds or refurbishments both during the building work and ongoing use of the building where possible minimising carbon emissions with a view to making them carbon neutral. To investigate methods of producing renewable energy from our School sites to utilise on site or to sell back to the national grid.

- Ensure that any newbuilds and refurbishments such as the new/refurbished science, drama and DT wing are designed to minimise carbon emissions by making full use of solar panels, batteries/power walls, heat source pumps, high levels of insulation and lower power lighting and electrical appliances
- Investigate the use of Solar Panels or/and solar awnings or canopies on each site, including Hinchley Wood and Oaken Lane, to generate electricity
- Investigate the addition of power walls or batteries to store excess electricity generated from solar panels
- Investigate the use of heat pumps on site
- Look at a potential re-build at Hinchley Wood to consider installing solar panels and other sources of renewable energy
- Investigate whether there is any possibility of offsetting carbon emissions by planting additional trees and shrubs

Social Responsibility and Wider Community

Aim: To educate students and staff about their impact on the environment to ensure they are making positive choices to recycle, reduce and reuse. To reach out to the local primary schools to utilise the forest area at Hinchley Wood once re-invigorated.

- Produce PSHE resources to challenge opinions and raise awareness of climate change, carbon emissions and how to reduce them
- Deliver assemblies to build carbon literacy and change attitudes and behaviours across all schools
- Deliver INSET sessions and research CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability
- Encourage reduction of single-use plastic brought on-site
- Engage PA to promote the ethos of movement to becoming more Eco-aware
- Apply for grants via council or other funding to improve forest area so that local primary schools are able to utilise forest area at Hinchley Wood effectively
- Develop links with Kingston Council and work alongside the council and other stakeholders to increase the school's involvement in wider community-based sustainability and green projects
- Develop links with other local schools and organisations to learn from each other and share best practice by identifying actions and activities which are successful in reducing and mitigating carbon emissions



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Document Information

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