



# Orford Church of England Primary School & Nursery Sustainability Strategy 2024-25

## School Sustainability Strategy

Following the government's publication of their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy in April 2022, Orford Primary School has developed a sustainable strategy statement in order to promote sustainability and help to ensure that these good practices are retained in the forthcoming years

## Overview

Sustainability is an important and integral part of day-to-day life at Orford Primary School. We aim to become an environmentally friendly educational setting that reduces our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. We wish to instil an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practice in pupils, staff and our wider school community. In line with the government's goals to become a net zero nation, our school is committed to promoting the importance of sustainable living. We regularly review our curriculum to ensure that we are actively preparing our pupils for a sustainable future, developing their awareness and appreciation of caring for the environment. Extracurricular activities through liaison with extended services including Suffolk waste management Services and Anglian Water give our pupils further opportunity to deepen their understanding and become active, caring citizens.

Our school environment is managed in a manner that demonstrates positive, sustainable practice to our pupils and their families. Our goal is to ensure that our school site and the practices that occur both inside and outside of the school building are sustainable and in line with government expectations relating to sustainability and climate change. The ways in which we manage matters of food, transport and travel, waste reduction and our consumption of energy and water reflect the values and ethos we wish to promote.

## Aims

The aims of this sustainability strategy/policy are:

- Reducing energy and water use: We use eco-friendly measures to reduce their environmental impact, such as turning off lights when not in use, installing photovoltaic panels, and harvesting rainwater.
- Reducing waste: We have recycling boxes for paper and also participate in national events such as Plastic Free July
- Educating students: We teach students about the importance of environmental preservation, about energy consumption and bio-diversity and how they can make a difference

- Creating healthier surroundings: We have created green spaces and eco-friendly initiatives to improve learning and promote wellness.
- Sustainable purchasing is considered as the primary option at all times.

## Curriculum

Ensuring pupils at Orford Primary School access a curriculum that teaches them about the importance of sustainability and how to live more sustainable lives is integral to the ethos and values of our school. In particular this is embedded into our PSHE, topic and Science curriculums but additional cross curricular learning opportunities are maximised in order to reinforce and develop the core concepts underpinning sustainability. These opportunities may be targeted and specific, based on national curriculum objectives.

In addition to this, opportunities also occur outside of our usual curriculum expectations. For example, ad-hoc opportunities to educate our pupils on sustainable practice may arise when discussing the day-to-day life of our school, such as the reasons why we must turn off lights when leaving a room and why utilising both sides of paper before recycling is a usual practice in our classrooms.

## Food Management

Orford Primary School use Vertas to provide our pupils' lunch food which is cooked on site. Their sustainability statement makes clear their plans to promote sustainability:

<https://www.vertas.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Sustainability-Strategy3.pdf>

As part of our curriculum expectations, pupils will be taught a clear and comprehensive food curriculum that encourages them (and by extension, their families) to adopt sustainable life skills and approaches to food.

Through introducing our pupils to food waste reduction etc. we hope to make a considerable impact, demonstrating sustainable practice to our staff, pupils, their families and the wider community. We hope that pupils will implement their learning at home, widening the influence of their education and increasing the benefits of these sustainable practices.

## Waste Reduction

At Orford, we are committed to reducing the amount of waste we produce and divert to landfill. To ensure we are able to limit the amount of waste generated in our school, we aim to instil good practice among pupils, staff and the wider community to ensure that, where possible, materials are recycled and repurposed.

To further our commitment, we are also ensuring that, where possible, our school sources, procures and uses sustainable, reusable materials and products. This will enable us to contribute to efforts to reduce the use of single use plastics and to ensure that items are not disposed of into landfill.

The school engages in activities such as the Food Savvy campaign in Suffolk and works closely with the waste management department of Suffolk County Council (SCC) who provide in-school training days for pupils in all three key stages and lead assemblies/provide pop up information stations for parents. Our School Council/Eco Council work with SCC to audit and control school waste and are very proud of their engagement in this.

Our Friends of School provide a pre-loved uniform service for parents and we organise book swap events to ensure that all pupils have access to high quality pre-loved texts.

## Energy and Water

To reduce the impact Orford Primary School has on the environment through the use of energy (electricity and gas) and water, our school aims, where possible, to monitor and limit our consumption. The following actions have been implemented to demonstrate our commitment to this goal:

- Solar Power energy provides for approximately 25-35 % of the energy used by the school

- We have installed a boiler system that actively monitors the temperature both inside and outside the school and adjusts the temperature of the circulating water to ensure that there is no waste. This, in conjunction with the installation of thermostatic radiator valves on all suitable radiators, has reduced oil consumption considerably.
- Our Eco Council/School Council members actively switch off lights each break time and at the end of the school day and ensure that doors and windows are not left open unnecessarily.
- All lighting throughout the school was replaced with LED tubes, many of which are on sensors which only light the tubes when people are present.
- Most of the old windows have been replaced with double glazed units with plans to complete as soon as possible.

As explained above, where possible, will endeavour to update and replace existing systems and equipment which are less energy efficient or outdated. This includes, but is not limited to, the toileting facilities and electrical equipment, such as computers and other related technology. This will enable us to ensure that our school's energy and water consumption is sustainable and in line with our wider goals of becoming environmentally friendly. Updating these aspects of our school may also provide a significant financial benefit for Orford Primary School, reducing costs and futureproofing our systems.

It is important that staff, pupils and their families are informed of the importance of adopting sustainable practices in relation to energy and water consumption. For example, we will ensure that all members of our school community understand and value expectations, such as keeping windows closed in colder temperatures and turning off electrical equipment when it is not in use, and ensuring that taps are not left running. Instilling these practices in day-to-day school life will enable our values and ethos to be driven towards our goals and ensure that our consumption is reduced for the benefit of all.

### Transport and Travel

Where possible, Orford Primary School will endeavour to promote sustainable practices relating to transport and travel.

Our efforts in this area include initiatives which will encourage staff, pupils and their families to travel to school via more sustainable, environmentally friendly means, including walking, use of bicycles and scooters and where possible shared school transport. This will enable our school to reduce the impact of our carbon footprint, reducing the number of vehicles on the roads and the frequency of vehicles idling on, or near to, our school grounds. We especially encourage pupils to cycle to school where possible and celebrate Cycle to School Week each year.

Where additional transport or travel arrangements are required, such as on the occasion of educational visits or assisting pupils and their families with attending the school site, we will endeavour to procure transport via eco-conscious organisations and companies.

### School Buildings and Site

To demonstrate Orford's continued commitment to improving its sustainable practices, we ensure that any new building work/site development is energy efficient, insulated and suited to purpose in how it promotes sustainable practice.

Where new school buildings are required, Orford Primary School will endeavour to ensure that all plans and building works are carried out in accordance with recent guidelines and initiatives. Our aim is to ensure that any works conducted are kind to the environment and demonstrate sustainable practice to staff and pupils and their families. Our school site will be used to promote the benefits of living in a sustainable manner. Where possible, pupils will be educated in outdoor spaces that enhance the delivery of our school curriculum. This type of education has been developed through the development of our Forest School area and education programme, our teaching garden and our Prayer garden in the children's Quiet Area.