

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Author's Name and Job Title:	Shane Blackshaw, Executive Finance Director		
Department:	Principalship		
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Post Holders	
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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date revised	Author/reviewer	Section / page no. changed	Summary of change(s)
0.1	March 2024	SBk	All	Initial draft version
0.2	July 2024	SBk	Page 1	Insertion of new paras (section 1.1) relating to Laudato, si'
1.0	July 2024	SBk	All	Insertion of Cover Sheet, Contents and page numbers

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Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** In the spirit of "Laudato Si'," we recognize our collective responsibility to cherish and sustain the earth, our shared home. This encyclical, issued by Pope Francis, serves as a cornerstone of our Environmental and Sustainability Policy, calling on us to engage in urgent dialogue and action for the health of our planet. It compels us not only to confront the challenges of pollution, climate change, and water scarcity but also to address the profound interconnectedness of all creatures.

By embracing the principles outlined in "Laudato Si'," we commit to transformative practices that honour and preserve the natural world. This policy is founded on the belief that environmental care is inseparable from the ethical treatment of our neighbours, especially the most vulnerable, and from the pursuit of justice and peace. Through this framework, we pledge to integrate sustainability into all aspects of our operations, fostering an environment where ecological well-being goes hand-in-hand with economic and social progress. Laudato Si'.

- 1.2** Sustainable development means that the needs of the present generation can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It aims for continuous improvement of quality of life and well-being for present and future generations.
- 1.3** The College has a responsibility to use resources sustainably and promote these behaviours amongst its staff, students and the wider community.
- 1.4** The college is a key influencer and has the opportunity to lead behaviour change across our community, impacting on lifelong attitudes to sustainable living for students and staff. To deliver meaningful change we must take positive action with strong conviction.
- 1.5** Coordinate and integrate this policy with all other college policies and strategic plans.

2. AIMS

- 2.1** This policy sets out how the college will manage and use resources, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion.
- 2.2** Compliance to, and where possible exceed, all legislative requirements.
- 2.3** This policy is framed around sector good practice and sector compliance, in particular Dept of Education sustainability and climate change strategy.
- 2.4** The college will endeavour to address the challenges of environmental sustainability and fulfil the key principles of the United Nations 'Sustainable Development Goals' <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- 2.5** Coordinate and integrate this policy with all other college policies and strategic plans.

3. KEY OBJECTIVES

3.1 Environmental Protection

The College, partners and stakeholders are committed to reducing environmental pollution and promote sustainable consumption and production.

3.2 Social Equity and Cohesion

The College, partners and stakeholders are committed to the promotion of a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just environment with respect for fundamental rights and cultural diversity that creates equal opportunities and combats discrimination in all its forms.

3.3 Economic Prosperity

The College, partners and stakeholders are committed to promoting a prosperous, innovative, knowledge-rich, environment which promotes opportunity for employment opportunities.

3.4 Meeting our International Responsibilities

The College, partners and stakeholders are committed to promoting sustainable development in line with International agreements.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The College, partners and stakeholders are committed to:

4.1 Promotion and Protection of Fundamental Rights

Promoting fundamental rights, by combating all forms of discrimination and contributing to the reduction of poverty and the elimination of social exclusion.

4.2 Solidarity Within and Between Generations

Addressing the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

4.3 Environmental Sustainability Culture

Ensuring environmental sustainability is embedded within its everyday and strategic culture.

4.4 Open and Democratic Society

Ensuring citizens' rights of access to information and guidance.

4.5 Involvement of Citizens

Enhancing the participation of citizens in decision-making and promoting awareness of sustainable development by highlighting the impact citizens have on the environment and their options for making more sustainable choices.

4.6 Involvement of Businesses and Social Partners

Enhancing the social dialogue, corporate social responsibility to foster cooperation and common responsibilities to achieve sustainable consumption and production. Use of systems and metrics to ensure all business partners have a culture of social responsibility, such as the UK National TOMs¹ Framework <https://socialvalueportal.com/solutions/national-toms/>.

4.7 Policy Coherence and Governance

Promoting coherence in all policies and coherence between local, regional, national and global actions in order to enhance their contribution to sustainable development.

4.8 Policy Integration

Promoting the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations so that they are coherent and mutually reinforce each other by making full use of instruments for better regulation, such as balanced impact assessment and stakeholder consultations.

4.9 Use Best Available Knowledge

Ensuring that policies are developed, assessed and implemented on the basis of the best available knowledge and that they are economically sound and cost-effective.

4.10 Precautionary Principle

Where there is scientific uncertainty the College, partners and stakeholders will implement evaluation procedures and take appropriate preventive action in order to avoid damage to human health or to the environment.

4.11 Environmental Requirements

The College's environmental responsibilities are to set targets and plan to conserve energy, water, wood, paper and other natural resources consumed, reduce waste and minimise the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds and other substances damaging to health and the environment. It will also take measures to increase biodiversity across the estate.

¹ Themes, Outcomes and Measures

4.12 Climate Adaptation Measures

When specifying equipment, procuring services or within future designs/operations the College will take measures to ensure all cater for climate adaptation.

4.13 Digital Campus

Embrace the idea of the delivery and ongoing development of a digital campus where intelligent systems are integrated and harmonised to allow information sharing allied with AI to improve campus life, teaching and operations.

4.14 Continued Governance and Reporting

The College will commission and maintain continual review of their environmental sustainability management and regularly report on this to governors.

5. POTENTIAL ACTIONS

There are a number of potential actions (still in progress) to facilitate implementation of this policy under the focus priorities of:

- 1 General
- 2 Biodiversity
- 3 Energy
- 4 Procurement
- 5 Travel
- 6 Waste & Recycling
- 7 Water
- 8 Education
- 9 Operations
- 10 Environmental Compliance
- 11 Smart/Digital Campus

Note:

Project priorities will be selected based on the following criteria:

First Year - Essential

- i) Policy
- ii) Strategy
- iii) Management & Responsibilities

Subsequent years

- i) Payback (finance)
- ii) Statutory Compliance
- iii) PR/Visibility/Behavioural Change