QEH Environment & Sustainability Policy

June 2026

Purpose of the School's Environmental & Sustainability Policy

As a school '*We are committed to providing a welcoming, learning environment and to improving the environmental well-being of the school. We are dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future'* , as written in our Eco-Code.

QEH strives to make the most efficient and effective use of all resources used across the main School and Failand, along with minimising the adverse environmental impacts of its activities through continuous improvement in environmental performance.

Scope & Players

The whole School Community are players in effect and therefore responsible for implementing aspects of the School's Environmental Policy: Governors, Support Staff, Head, Teaching Staff, Staff Sustainability Team and Student Eco-Group Representatives, Students and Parents.

Governors:

- Annually review the School's Environmental and Sustainability Policy;
- Consider environmental impacts of any new builds/refurbishments/developments planned.

Bursary/Estate Bursary:

- Monitor and review the School's energy usage;
- Identify energy efficiency concerns and taking the necessary steps to rectify them (complete the installation of motion sensor lights throughout school);

Site maintenance:

- Ensure that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed;
- Continue to record energy use and waste volumes from across the school sites;
- Continue to advise cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice (switching lights off).

The School/Head:

- Develop a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability;
- Promote awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities;
- Strive to include and engage staff, governors, students, parents and wider community to help improve our environmental performance.
- Ensure that all staff and students understand the importance of energy conservation (e.g. ensuring that everyone turn lights/devices off when not in use);
- Ensure that the School catering company continues to adhere to their Sustainable policies;
- Overall implementation of this policy.

Teaching staff:

- Ensure classrooms are used energy sustainably (e.g. ensure computers, projectors and lights are turned off when not in use);

Staff Sustainability Team and Student Eco-Group Representatives:

- Feedback ideas, campaigns and project outcomes to wider School community;

- Review and promote sustainability and sustainable practice throughout the School;
- Provide Sustainability enrichment sessions, as appropriate

Students:

- Apply their learning at home and aim to be sustainable outside of school;
- Walk, cycle or use public transport to and from school when possible;
- Use energy sustainably (i.e. switch lights off, taps off);
- Be responsible for keeping the classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy;
- Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks;
- Use correct recycling and waste bins and reduce all plastic packaging and waste.

Parents:

- Promote an eco-friendly lifestyle at home (e.g. recycle at home and ensure that young people understand how and what to recycle);
- Encourage students to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel school, when possible;
- Reinforce the learning that the school implements with regard to the environment and sustainability.

Objectives

This Policy provides the framework for delivering improvements in environmental performance across QEH, working towards Net Zero in 2030. Policies and pledges are provided under a number of our Eco-School themed headings to align with the Eco-School programme we follow as an Eco-School.

Waste management & recycling

Policy: To reduce the overall amount of waste produced across the school.
Pledges:

- Continue to reduce (100% recycled) paper usage wherever possible and default to double-sided printing, using scrap paper wherever possible and only printing documents when essential.
- Continue to use the school's website, social media platforms/apps to communicate with parents to reduce paper waste.
- Continue to pursue reducing food waste, working with the Dining Room Committee.
- Continue with to reduce, reuse and recycle office equipment and furniture.
- Only laminate where absolutely necessary.
- Encourage more use of reusable water bottles into school.
- Continue to provide clearly labelled recycling bins throughout the school for recycling (including crisp packets, batteries, mobile phones).
- Explore further recycling options in future and continue to provide clothing *swap shop* events.
- Continue to display campaign posters to encourage recycling and effective waste management across the school.

Energy

Policy: To reduce the overall energy consumption across the various QEH school buildings and grounds.
Pledges:

- To switch lights, computers, projectors and any other devices off when not in use.
- To monitor more effectively the temperature and heating provision across the school site and adjust accordingly where possible.
- To keep doors and windows shut in cold weather.
- Continue to audit energy used each term and pursue further smart metering across the school sites.
- Consider joining *Energy Spark's Programme* **in future** as mechanism for displaying real-time energy usage across the school as further real time information becomes available in future.

Transport

Policy: To reduce car and coach mileage to and from QEH's main site and Failand.
Pledges:

- Encourage staff and students to use more sustainable modes of transport to and from school premises, through initiatives such as the Active Travel Voucher initiative during school Eco-Weeks
- Encourage staff to use public transport when travelling to external training days and continue to encourage car-sharing where possible and to continue with car parking rota (reducing overall parking in the long term).
- Continue to provide suitable and safe storage for staff and students to store bicycles.
- Continue to explore more sustainable transport solutions for travelling between main site and Failand.
- Continue to explore off-setting carbon emissions from air travel undertaken by students and staff

Litter

Policy: To reduce litter across the school premises and immediate local environment.
Pledges:

- Ensure the whole school community is reminded regularly to put all litter in bins provide.
- Continue with regular litter picking enrichment sessions within the local community.
- Continue to review litter picking within the school grounds as part of student sanction policy.
- Continue to promote awareness of anti-littering throughout the school as part of PSHE lessons, assemblies, leaflets and posters.

Water

Policy: To reduce the overall amount of water wasted and used across the school.
Pledges:

- Continue to conserve water as much water as possible across the sites by installing efficient systems that reduce waste water (i.e. cistern dams, flow restrictors).
- Insulate all hot water pipes to reduce water waste as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensure all systems work efficiently, with any breakages/leaks resolved urgently.

School Grounds

Policy: To improve upon the provision and quality of school grounds and space.
Pledges:

- Continue to develop and maintain the *Sanctuary Space* for the benefit of the whole school community.
- Continue to maximise the use of our small pockets of green space (wildlife spaces) for the benefit of urban wildlife and school community.
- Continue to explore ways of improving the use and amenity value of the main yard and upper science yard for the benefit of Junior and Senior students.
- Continue to provide gardening clubs across the schools.
- Explore further green roofs and/or living walls across the school grounds.

Biodiversity & Marine Environments

Policy: To continue to promote biodiversity across all school sites and play a role in helping our local marine environments.
Pledges:

- Maintain *No-Mow-May* across parts of the main school site and Failand.
- Continue to improve upon and develop new wildlife habitats and wildflower areas at Failand.

- Continue to maintain the wildlife spaces at the main Clifton site, including all ponds.
- Continue to provide nesting habitats and feeders for birdlife at the Clifton site.
- Continue to work alongside The Marine Conservation Trust in beach cleans at our local beaches, if possible.

Global Citizenship

Policy: To encourage our students to become aware of and understand the wider world – and their place in it.
Pledges:

- Continue to raise money for local and national charitable causes, locally, national and internationally.
- Continue to focus on environmental, wildlife and sustainably aware charities (e.g. Water Aid, our Wildlife Trusts, The Marine Conservation Trust).
- Continue to observe national dedicated events such as RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, Outdoor Learning Days, National Earth Days etc.
- As part of their wider learning, continue to encourage students to take responsibility for planning fundraising events, choosing charities and debating.

Healthy Living

Policy: To improve the health and well-being of the whole school community
Pledges:

- Continue to promote an understanding of the impact that individuals can have on the environment and their lifestyles through PHSE and enrichment activities.
- Continue to explore growing fruit and vegetables on site.
- Continue to encourage healthy food options, both in the dining hall and in the 6th Form Centre and tuck time.
- Continue to provide students and staff with opportunities for discussing mental health issues and strategies for dealing with such issues, e.g. mindfulness, quiet spaces.
- Encourage *outdoor learning* across the school wherever and whenever possible.

Additional Sustainable Pledges

- We will continue to ensure ***product procurement*** is done in the most sustainable way, trying to source recourse from within the UK or locally where possible and will continue to monitor the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjust procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Explore further the commitment to ***reducing overall carbon emissions*** through the ***Let's Go Zero 2030*** Campaign and the Eco-School's *Cut Our Carbon* campaign will therefore endeavour to reduce our emissions through the pledges listed above (i.e. implementing more efficient technologies, educating the school community, running campaigns and actions, continuing our commitment to the Eco-School programme)
- The Junior and Senior School will continue to work together towards an annual ***Green Flag Eco School Award*** for the School, run by Eco-Group representatives and the Sustainability Team.

The Staff Sustainability Team and Senior Eco-Representatives

June 2026