

# ST GEORGE'S ASCOT



ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY



I am incredibly proud of the changes we have implemented at St George's in recent years to promote a culture of sustainable development and environmental responsibility alongside developing a culture of conservation. I am proud to lead a school community where the pupils are committed to keeping this issue at the top of their agenda.

Liz Hewer

# Welcome

St George's Ascot is one of a growing number of schools looking to take positive action to ensure that our community plays an active and considered role in addressing climate change and impacts on the environment from a local to global scale. Asserting and developing the School's positive approach to ensuring environmental sustainability is a key part of our wider 10 year strategic plan.

This document outlines our aspirations for the School to become more sustainable, and points to the key activities that will be addressed and the approach that the community will adopt in achieving this.

To achieve the strategy, the School will seek to further educate our community. This should not be constrained to classroom activities and must expand to include staff, parents and the local community where we are able to exert influence through our existing, and developing, outreach programme. We will also enable and empower ourselves to make environmentally sound choices and to improve on our current position. Finally, where appropriate we must be ready to enforce this approach with those affected and support them in making appropriate decisions, for example, ensuring that our contractors are similarly engaged in following an environmentally sustainable agenda.

This document outlines our commitment to an environmental agenda and sets out the vision and objectives that the School believes are important. It integrates the wider 10 year strategy while guiding and directing the development of more specific planning in this area.

As a school, St George's acknowledges that it plays a vital role in developing a more environmentally sustainable future for everyone. Where we are strongest is in our ability to educate but this must also be done through example and this strategy helps to outline how we will achieve this.

E M Hewer  
Head



The purpose of this strategy is to put environmental sustainability at the core of everything that St George's does, in order to contribute towards a better future for all.



# Introduction & Ambition

The purpose of this strategy is to put environmental sustainability at the core of everything that St George's does, in order to contribute towards a better future for all.

This should complement wider development across the School, although it is acknowledged that at times there will be a natural tension between what is right for the environment and sustainability, and what is easier to deliver in terms of cost and resource.

## **Environmental Sustainability Education**

Fundamentally the School exists to educate and develop the next generation and our goal is to ensure that we nurture a strong understanding of environmental issues and a healthy culture that is not afraid to challenge the status quo and is able to lead and inform others. The School aims to develop knowledge, not only in our pupils but also in our staff, parents and the wider community. In parallel we intend to lead by example, ensuring where possible that our actions have appropriately considered the environmental impact and sustainability issues, and are tempered accordingly. Through this we believe that we can deliver enduring change. The School aims to approach this in a balanced and measured way, providing balance and responsible education wherever and whenever it can.

## **Sustainability in Practice**

St George's aims to deliver balanced education and considered action and will ensure that it leads by example in terms of environmental sustainability. We will seek to achieve outstanding environmental performance, to limit the negative impact we have in the environment and to improve the quality of the School estate and the environment around it. We acknowledge that we must act appropriately when necessary, and be seen to do so. We accept that we must continue to improve our carbon footprint and influence our stakeholders to do similar.

# Objectives

- ◊ **DELIVER.** This strategy outlines the School's commitment to improving our environment. It will be underpinned by a Sustainability Policy, inclusion in the School Development Plan and in a series of supporting plans and actions.
- ◊ **EDUCATE.** We will develop our environmental education, empowering our community to live more greenly and take informed action.
- ◊ **ENGAGE.** The School will develop a clear environmental communication strategy that engages with staff, pupils, parents and key stakeholders.
- ◊ **PROMOTE.** We will consciously promote the health and wellbeing benefits of increased engagement with, and enjoyment of, nature and the environment.
- ◊ **REVIEW.** Commit to understanding and reviewing our current practices through audit to establish clear baseline data. Where necessary the School will consult and engage with subject matter experts.
- ◊ **ADHERE.** The School will adhere to the principles of sustainability: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.



ST GEORGE'S  
RECEPTION

# Implementation

In order to achieve the aims and objectives we acknowledge that it is essential to develop policies and processes that are considered, effective and practical. This strategy outlines the School's commitment to achieving this over the mid-term. It will be characterised by a period of meaningful review and consultation with pupils, staff, parents, alumnae, partners and Governors.

As our knowledge increases and momentum develops, we will put in place a firm plan of action supported by the necessary governance structure and resources. We acknowledge that financial considerations will play an important role and identify that doing the right thing may not always be the cheapest option, therefore, compromise will be necessary. Our plan of action will not only consider what is necessary in the short-term but must also consider what we need to do moving forward and how our actions now may impact on future environmental issues.



The environment is no one's property to destroy;  
it's everyone's responsibility to protect.

Mohith Agadi



St George's is delighted to be a part of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead initiative to promote principles of sustainability within schools and in November 2019, 13 specimen trees were planted on our site creating the SGA Arboretum.

# Roles & Responsibilities

The Headmistress is ultimately responsible to the Governors for setting the Environmental Sustainability agenda. She will lead the School to deliver its environmental objectives.

The Headmistress delegates operational delivery to the following members of the Senior Leadership Team:

The Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Connections) and the Deputy Head (Academic) who are responsible for the effective implementation of environmental and sustainability education and for development of the Environmental Sustainability policy.

The Bursar who is responsible for positive and impactful environmental and sustainability practice within the School, most notably through the Estate and the Bursary.

The Headmistress also acknowledges the important role of the pupils, and notably their Environmental Council which is responsible for representing the student voice regarding environmental and sustainability issues.



Sustainable development is the masterful balance of meeting our own needs without jeopardising future generation's ability to do the same.

#### All Staff

At St George's we expect all staff to be positive environmental role models. By inviting our staff to reflect on their own personal and professional practices we will look to encourage them to be supportive and engaged in environmental and sustainability practices, to promote these and adopt them. Minimising the waste of resources, eliminating single-use plastics and reducing paper usage and photocopying are simple examples of this in practice.

#### Pupils

We will encourage and expect our pupils to adopt the good practices modelled by the staff and garnered through education. We seek to inspire our pupils to be reflective and conscientious of the issues, and considerate to the environmental and sustainability challenges and opportunities around them. In future we would hope to see some of our pupils develop the skills and awareness from their school experience to follow further education and careers in environmental and sustainable fields.

#### Parents and Alumnae

We will engage with our parents to encourage their support and to improve the environmental and sustainability issues that impact the School. For example encouraging the use of shared transport to minimise travel to school, and turning off car engines while waiting for pupils to be collected. Our alumnae are identified as playing a key supporting role as the strategy moves to its delivery stage. We will seek to encourage their engagement with this issue as we progress.

# Strategic & Operational Committees

The School will coordinate its environmental and sustainability activities through the following committees:

- ◊ THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (ESC)
- ◊ ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION GROUP (ESAG)



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (ESC)

- ◊ Chair - Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Connections)
- ◊ Bursar
- ◊ Deputy Head (Academic)
- ◊ Domestic Bursar
- ◊ Operations Manager
- ◊ Marketing
- ◊ Secretary to SLT

### **Key Functions of the Committee:**

- ◊ To create and shape the Environmental and Sustainability policy.
- ◊ Establish SMART objectives and targets.
- ◊ Liaise with and direct the Environmental Sustainability Action Group (ASAG).
- ◊ Monitor and review the Environmental and Sustainability policy as required.
- ◊ Prioritising and allocating adequate resources to ensure the success of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- ◊ Communicating with the Head and Governors as appropriate.
- ◊ The committee will meet half-termly.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION GROUP (ESAG)

- ◊ Chair - Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Connections)
- ◊ All members of the ESC.
- ◊ Deputy Head (Pastoral)
- ◊ Lead teachers with responsibility for sustainability.
- ◊ Director of Sport
- ◊ Director of Admissions and Marketing

### **Key Functions of the Committee:**

- ◊ To bring together relevant academic and support staff to share good practice and share development ideas.
- ◊ To inform and evaluate ESC decisions.
- ◊ To deliver the plan as approved by the ESC and other committees as appropriate.
- ◊ To keep abreast of environmental issues.

# Policy Framework & Key Priority Areas

The strategy identifies the 10 key areas that are to be reviewed to:

- ◊ Understand the School's current position with respect to environmental sustainability (this may require consultation with experts)
- ◊ Develop meaningful SMART targets
- ◊ Create an action plan
- ◊ Implement a process to evaluate the impact of the plan and the effectiveness of the policy



The 10 key areas are:



**Environmental Awareness:** To elevate Environmental Sustainability to a level that it is routinely considered in key decisions, in a manner not dissimilar to Health and Safety and Diversity and Inclusion.



**Biodiversity and the Natural Environment:** To improve the quality of our green spaces and biodiversity by limiting the negative impacts (and, where possible, by increasing positive impacts) on our natural environment.



**Buildings and Construction:** To improve the environmental impact of our construction and refurbishment projects.



**Community Engagement:** To engage effectively with our School and local communities to achieve positive environmental action.



**Energy and Carbon Management:** To reduce our carbon emissions whilst supporting the School's plans for the investment in, and modernisation of, the Estate.



**Food and Catering:** To reduce the environmental footprint of our food and catering operation.



**Procurement and Third Parties:** To identify and procure goods and services that are as sustainable as possible and, whenever practical, to influence positively the sustainability practices of suppliers.



**Travel and Transport:** To provide viable and accessible sustainable travel options for staff and pupils for travel to School, around the site and as part of our co-curricular provision, which results in a reduction of carbon emissions.



**Waste Management:** To minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, re-usage and recycling.



**Water Management:** To reduce overall water consumption and wastage.



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