



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

The Department of Children, Schools and Families requires all schools to be sustainable by 2020.

The Sustainable Schools strategy is made up of eight sustainability 'doorways'. Each plays a role in the curriculum, but can also have a big impact on the whole community. The eight 'doorways' are as follows:

Food and drink

An unhealthy diet contributes to low concentration and performance as well as to obesity and poor health.



A school that buys healthy, ethically sourced food can offer nutritional benefits; improve pupils' understanding of food and where it comes from; protect the environment and support local producers and suppliers.

Energy and water

Eco-efficiency measures can help schools reduce their environmental impact. By reducing the amount of energy and water they use schools can make real cost savings and money can be channelled back into the school.



Sustainable Schools can showcase energy efficiency, renewable energy use and water conservation to pupils and the whole community.

Travel and traffic

During term-time, cars on the school run account for 16 per cent of early morning traffic and a measurable increase in pollution near schools. Being driven to school reduces the amount of exercise a child gets and makes them less road safety aware.



Car sharing and public transport can help with congestion and pollution; while walking or cycling boost fitness, increase concentration and help children form positive habits for life.

Purchasing and waste

By adopting a 'reduce, reuse and recycle' approach, and by using local goods and services of high environmental standards, schools can reduce costs and support ethical markets in their communities.



Buildings and grounds

A well-designed and cared-for school provides an excellent teaching and learning resource for staff and pupils.



Sustainable design principles, technologies, interior furnishings and environmental management not only bring physical benefits for a school, they provide working examples of sustainable living that can inspire teachers and children.

Inclusion and participation



Schools can promote community cohesion by creating an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that values everyone's participation and contribution, and challenges prejudice and injustice. Pupils are instilled with a long-lasting respect for human rights, freedoms, cultures and creative expression.

Local well-being



With their central locations, facilities and extensive networks schools can act as hubs of learning and catalysts for change in their local communities. Focusing on local challenges and finding solutions to them gives pupils the opportunity to learn and develop real-world skills and helps to strengthen local relationships.

Global dimension



Growing interdependence between countries changes the way we view our world, including our own culture. Schools can respond by developing a responsible, international outlook among their pupils on global challenges such as poverty and climate change.

What we are doing

In order to prepare St Mary's for 2020, we have decided to implement some changes now. We are already recycling paper, card, plastic and tin foil and have recently installed collection bins in reception for aluminium and tin cans. As we can raise money for school fund by recycling tin foil, aluminium and tin cans please feel free to bring any empty cans into school for our collection bins.

We have also appointed Eco-Warriors who walk around school checking that lights and taps are not being left on unnecessarily and raising awareness of how we can save energy.

We will keep you updated on all future developments of our sustainability programme and ways in which you can help us to achieve our targets.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to the principles of environmental and sustainable development as the way forward for the school as a community.