

'But now are they many members, yet but one body.'

1 Corinthians, 12:20

**ST AIDAN'S**

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## **Sustainable procurement policy**

### **Introduction**

At St Aidan's we are committed to minimising our carbon footprint as much as we can. As a small school, budgets are always tight so when purchasing products or services, value for money has to be our main priority, however, we will carefully consider environmental aspects (listed under separate headings) before making our final decisions. In line with our vision of shared purpose, this policy supports responsible stewardship of resources for the benefit of the whole school community.

Through this policy we will endeavour to ensure that, where finances allow, the products we purchase do as little harm to the environment as possible and includes, where we can, buying locally, buying recycled and recyclable and minimising the use of chemicals.

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## **1 Packaging**

In all cases where packaging is involved we will do our best to ensure that there is as little as possible and that it is:

- biodegradable or can be recycled;
- preferably made from recycled material.

## **2 Paper and books**

- Paper based on recycled/recyclable paper or sustainably harvested virgin fibre.
- Low energy and emission production.
- Manufacturer states 'Ecological responsibility'.

## **3 Office and school equipment**

- Energy efficient models.
- Products with minimal hazardous materials.
- Take back options.
- Long-life products.
- Potential for re-use or recycling.

## **4 Batteries**

- Rechargeable batteries wherever possible.
- Recycle non rechargeable batteries.

## **5 Electricity**

Where we have control, increase the share of electricity from renewable energy sources or biomass.

## **6 Lighting**

- New systems to be as energy efficient as possible.
- Recycle waste products where possible.

## **7 Furniture**

Once consideration has been given to the suitability, safety, robustness and longevity of furniture we will do our best to ensure that:

- we source locally;
- materials are recycled or based on renewable raw materials and any timber used comes from legal and sustainably managed forests;
- furniture is repairable and recyclable.

## **8 Textiles**

When dealing with things like clothing, bags/rucksacks, carpets, curtains etc, our preference is for:

- Fair Trade textiles;
- materials containing recycled fibres;

- clothes or materials containing organic cotton or other natural fibres;
- products displaying the EU organic logo or the international gold standard for organic textiles ([www.global-standard.org/](http://www.global-standard.org/));
- reuse: hand on or sell on school uniforms, PE kits, bags etc.

## **9 Food and catering**

Where we have control we will, or, where we haven't the subcontractors will, give consideration to the following:

- seasonal products;
- UK, preferably locally produced, products;
- organic or partially organic food;
- Fair Trade products;
- sustainably-produced or caught marine products;
- livestock products with high welfare standards;
- bulk purchasing;
- reusable cutlery, crockery, cups and tablecloths;
- environmentally friendly paper products;
- full waste collection of food stuffs;
- water and energy efficient kitchen appliances.

## **10 Cleaning products**

We will endeavour to minimise the amount of cleaning products used, by training staff and monitoring cleaning plans and techniques. Where we have control we will, or, where we haven't the subcontractors will, give consideration to the following:

- products made in the UK;
- cleaning products effective at low temperatures;
- products that have not been tested on animals;
- avoid hazardous substances in products (COSHH) including phosphorus and biocides and products based on petro chemicals.

## **11 Gardening**

- Avoid products containing peat.
- Limit chemical pesticides by using alternative pest control techniques.
- Organically produced native plants.
- conserve water by using water butts;
- Compost green waste to limit the need to buy.

## **12 Building repair and decorating materials**

- Before buying new, use up any previously purchased materials.
- Sustainably produced materials where possible.
- Eco-friendly paints and decorating materials.

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed by the Resources committee every three years.



Date of policy: MAY 2025

Policy ratified: ..... (Signature) ..... 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 ..... (Date)

Review due: MAY 2028