



Environment & Sustainability Statement

Ashwell Primary School recognises that we have an environmental responsibility beyond the education and wellbeing of our pupils, staff, and wider school community.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving, our environmental performance as an integral part of our school ethos to ensure future generation are equipped for a changing climate. Our curriculum helps our pupils develop the knowledge and courage to take environmental action. Pupils are given hope, and they know that the school is working hard to make a positive environmental difference.

Responsibility

Ashwell Primary School governing body and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for ensuring that this Environment & Sustainability statement is implemented, however, everyone in the Ashwell School community has a responsibility to ensure that the environment is integrated into all decision making and the aims and objectives are met.

Ashwell Primary School supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Core elements of our strategy

Our environmental sustainability strategy seeks to address greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, biodiversity loss and waste across our entire site, as we strive to continually strengthen our environmental practices and prepare for future climates.

Carbon Neutrality & Net Zero

We recognise that GHG emissions represent a significant part of our school's environmental footprint, from the electricity we use to the travel our staff, pupils and parents undertake.

- We are committed to reach net-zero climate impact by 2050 in line with Hertfordshire County Councils ambition for a Net Zero county.
- We are collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure inclusion in decision making.
- The environment and sustainability are embedded throughout the curriculum at Ashwell Primary School.

Reducing Waste

In 2021, approximately 2.5 million metric tons of plastic packaging waste was created by households in the United Kingdom, with only 44 percent being recycled. As a school community, we are committed to reducing waste across our school site.

- We aim to reduce waste generation at the source and seek to minimise the waste we send to landfill.
- We promote reuse and recycling, as well as the use of supplies that are recycled and recyclable and whose production and use minimise the consumption of natural resources. Specifically, we aim to remove all single-use plastics, use environmentally friendly paper, and recycle where possible, including plastics and large electronic equipment.

- We encourage our staff and pupils to drive initiatives to reduce waste, including sorting and recycling materials, donating used technology equipment, and reducing food.

Increase Biodiversity

Over the last 50 years 41% of all UK species studied have declined. Nature is a vital part of our physical and mental wellbeing and creating a wilder Hertfordshire should be important for everyone. Most of the wildlife associated with towns and cities does not actively seek out human proximity but rather survives in the green patches that are our parks, gardens, allotments, churchyards, and road verges.

- We aim to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity throughout the school, by showing positive attitudes and values for the health and well-being of local habitats, plants, and animals, as well as humans.
- Ashwell Primary School aims to reduce its global footprint on habitats and species, both locally and globally through the conscious consumerism of natural resources.
- Ashwell Primary School links biodiversity work to the curriculum and encourages the use of our school grounds to introduce children to the natural environment and biodiversity, offering opportunities for outdoor education that can complement classroom-based activities.

Cleaner Air

Addressing air pollution can provide immediate and tangible benefits for people and communities, while also accelerating climate change efforts.

- We aim to reduce air pollution from our own operations.
- Tackle air pollution at the school gate, including the school run.
- Educate the next generation to help them and their families make cleaner air choices.
<https://www.transform-our-world.org/programmes/clean-air-for-schools>
- Become a local leader on air pollution, collaborating with local partners to improve air quality in the local area.
- We will support the school community to engage with walking, wheeling, and cycling which will decrease congestion, air, and noise pollution.

Active Travel

Active travel refers to modes of travel that involve a level of activity. The term is often used interchangeably with walking and cycling, but active travel can also include trips made by wheelchair, mobility scooters, adapted cycles, e-cycles, scooters, as well as cycle sharing schemes.

- We encourage walking, wheeling, and cycling as these are the least carbon-intensive ways to travel. More active travel will also make roads quieter, safer and more attractive for people to walk, wheel and cycle.
- Ashwell Primary School aims to reduce transport emissions by encouraging a mode shift to walking, wheeling, and cycling.
- Develop a school travel plan with the aim of increasing pupils' health and activity levels, making the roads around Ashwell Primary School safer and improving the local environment by reducing air and noise pollution.

This document will be reviewed every 2 years from the publication of the last final version.