

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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SIGNATURE:



DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: August 2024

This policy was written for Greatwood by Laura Wickham and updated by Helen Yeadon. It will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any new recommendations or legislation as it is made available.

## **RATIONALE:**

Sustainable living is a way of thinking about how we organise our lives, work and education system so that we don't destroy our most precious resource – our planet. It is about helping people to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future or impacting unfairly on other people's lives. It is about reshaping the way we think about the future.

Greatwood's sustainability policy is based on a framework which focuses on:

- Providing socially inclusive opportunities, which re-engages students back into education or training, so as to promote a highly skilled and educated work force in the community. This will address the skills shortages and lower than average educational attainment in the Borough of Swindon.
- Reducing social exclusion and poverty by:
  - Transforming the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people from challenging environments by re-engaging them back into education/training/work.
  - Offering young people wider horizons by providing a unique learning and sensory experience.
  - Educating young people with first hand experiences of equines, animal welfare and horticulture.
  - Identifying future job opportunities by bringing alive the countryside as a place of work.
  - Working towards reducing young people at risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training); crime; anti-social behaviour by offering children and young people a fuller meaning to their lives as well as enhancing their appreciation of and respect of others.
- Adopting sustainable waste management solutions and reducing environmental pollution by recycling animal manure back on to the land so as to eliminate the need for chemicals.

## **AIMS:**

- To prepare young people for a lifetime of sustainable living, through teaching, and example in day-to-day practices.

- To encourage care for oneself - our health and well-being
- To encourage care for each other - across cultures, distances and generations
- To encourage care for the environment - near and far

### ***Approach:***

At Greatwood Charity, we take a holistic approach to sustainability. It is not seen as something extra to tag onto the curriculum but rather an approach which permeates all that we do. It is embedded in our vision; it is part of our ethos and woven into all areas of teaching and learning. It is a way of thinking that we seek to share with the local community. The principles from the National Curriculum overlap with the Every Child Matters Agenda and at all times aim to promote equality and inclusion.

### ***Caring for ourselves:***

At Greatwood we put a high value on the well-being of our students and their learning environment. The classroom is welcoming, clean and an interesting place to learn. We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying which is reinforced by staff who demonstrate fair, positive, and caring behaviour at all times. Inclusion is integral to our approach to teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop high self-esteem and achieve good standards.

Healthy eating is promoted through curriculum work and students sample the vegetables and fruit that they have grown in the garden throughout the year.

### ***Caring for each other:***

Students spend time each week through their curriculum work developing a sound understanding of interpersonal relationships.

Our goal is to help children and young people feel positive about themselves whilst gaining confidence through their contribution at Greatwood. By caring, learning respect and kindness for our rescued horses so their trust and ability for consideration towards others, as well as themselves increases, with the domino effect of helping to make their own relationships flourish. We know from experience that the most effective learning should be active and enjoyable but also meaningful and poignant.

### ***Caring for the environment:***

Greatwood has developed its grounds to increase the biodiversity and habitats available for wildlife. We value the use of the outdoor classroom and make maximum use of our grounds to enhance learning including the sensory garden, meadow and woodlands.

**Energy and Waste** - students are involved with recycling and composting; water butts are used to conserve water. Ensuring that the correct procedure for recycling is followed.

We believe that by fostering positive attitudes about sustainable issues and developing awareness and critical thinking skills in our pupils and the wider community, future generations will be better equipped to manage the challenges that lie ahead for our planet.