



***We are all part of God's vine and are rooted in His rich soil. We are nurtured and supported so that we may grow and spread out into the world to love and to serve.***

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. John 15:5*

## **GORING C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY**

**Policy Approved by the Finance Committee ...29 January 2025**

**Signed ..... Chair of Governing Body**

**Review Date .....February 2027**

**To conform with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) all data is handled according to the terms of our Privacy Notice. A copy of this is available on our school website.**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Goring C.E. Primary School will ensure that when all products and services are purchased, we will consider environmental aspects, potential impacts and the costs associated with their life cycle. We will endeavour to ensure that they are less harmful to the environment (land, air and water) and that they are made with less harmful materials when produced, used or consumed. This will include, where possible; buying locally, buying recycled and recyclable products, using fewer chemicals, and reducing the school's carbon footprint associated with products and services.

#### **Paper**

We endeavour to minimise the use of paper in school. For example, we use the Parentmail email system to communicate with parents and rarely send letters in hard copy. In addition, 'scrap' paper is stored in classrooms so pupils can use this for colouring and drawing during 'wet play' and, as part of the Eco-schools ethos, they are actively encouraged to think about whether they need a clean sheet of paper or whether they can use scrap paper.

We purchase our printer paper from a local supplier (based in Reading) which complies with environmental legislation and strives to minimise its environmental impacts in production and packaging processes.

### **Cleaning products**

We aim to ensure where possible that the cleaning products we use do not contain bleach, and products are used sparingly to minimise the amount of chemicals entering the water cycle. Because we buy in bulk, packaging is minimal and is recycled. Biodegradable cleaning cloths are always used.

### **Energy and lighting**

Much of the lighting throughout the school is provided by fluorescent tubes which are long-lasting and energy-efficient; recently installed lighting units are efficient LED lights (such as the new lighting in the small hall). More energy-intensive spot lighting is used only for school productions. All lamps are disposed of appropriately.

Our energy certificate is displayed.

### **Waste disposal**

We purchase our waste-disposal services externally, and seek to ensure that waste is separated into recycling and general waste bins. We use a contractor who is committed to the re-use and recovery of recyclable material, and the recovery of energy from waste through anaerobic digestion, landfill gas engines and energy from waste incineration. We use a contractor who is regularly inspected by the Environment Agency to ensure that they are complying with strict European legislation regarding safe waste disposal.

Food waste from the school kitchen is collected separately and converted to biogas.

Printer cartridges and batteries are recycled.

### **Gardening services**

Landscaping (hedge-trimming, etc) is undertaken by the school caretaker. Garden waste is removed and composted. The flower beds are maintained by volunteers who work with the children. Pesticides are not used.

### **The kitchen garden**

The garden team use only organic compost and seeds. Pesticides are not used. The fruit and vegetables grown are used by the school in cooking workshops. As part of the annual RHS Big Soup Share the kitchen garden team uses compostable plant-based soup containers.

### **Buying locally**

Where possible we purchase goods and services from local suppliers in order to minimise environmental transportation costs. This includes the procurement of cleaning supplies from West Berkshire; the use of locally sourced food by Oxfordshire County Council; and the use of local facilities and environmental resources such as the Withymead Nature Reserve for Forest School, Rushall Farm in Berkshire, and the Earth Trust in Oxfordshire.

### **Working with companies that prioritise ethics and sustainability**

While we are required to minimise costs as far as possible in our procurement, we consider the environmental/sustainability credentials of our suppliers as an important factor in choosing who we buy from. Macmillan Education (book supplier), for example, uses responsibly sourced paper in all of its products and works with the Carbon Trust to reduce its carbon footprint. Our school uniform supplier, Innovation, prioritises buying products made in the UK where possible, and applies a rigorous ethical trading policy to those products that are sourced from overseas.