



Cranbrook Education Campus

Environmental and Ecological Policy



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Review Committee:	LGB Governors
Author of Policy:	Ellie Jacobs



1. Introduction

CEC is fortunate enough to have a large outdoor campus and it is therefore important that it is used sustainably to ensure that the environment is not detrimentally affected by the on-site activities. This policy will set out the ways in which the Campus should be used to promote both pupils and staff to have a high level of respect for the natural world and properly use it so that the flora and fauna of the site is maintained.

Examples of possible activities which could cause a negative impact to the environment and therefore need to follow this policy are:

- Every day use at break/lunchtime
- Use during lessons (eg Science or Geography)
- PE Lessons
- Forest School
- Orienteering
- Overnight Camping (eg the Duke of Edinburgh's Award)
- External Lettings of the Campus.

The Campus also desires to become a 'low carbon' Sustainable school with Green Flag Status and so is required to look at other factors beyond the immediate surrounding environment. This policy will therefore also cover the ways in which CEC plans be more sustainable as a business, including sourcing materials and disposing of waste.

To encourage pupils to take a sense of responsibility for the measures laid out by this policy, a cross-phase 'Eco Team' has been established. Members of this team work with their Sustainability lead (Ellie Jacobs), external companies and the site management team to reduce the Campus' carbon footprint, be involved in decisions about the environment, campus infrastructure and promote the procedures on campus.

CEC recognises that in order to effectively promote and enact the policy across the whole campus, it is necessary for not only students but all staff, visitors and other users of the campus to take responsibility and assist in developing a successful methodology; ensuring communication about issues or accomplishments is ongoing.



2. Sustainable use of the Campus

There are many ways in which each of the activities listed in Section 1 could negatively affect the environment. The table below lists some of the individual elements of one (or several) of these activities and gives the proper procedures that should be followed to mitigate the lasting impact to the environment.

Use	Impact	Control Measures
Paths/walkways	Repeated footfall on poor quality paths can cause long term impact to the soil and plants. It is important to have some paths established for ease of access for all our users.	Most areas of footfall are tarmacked which should result in minimal deterioration for the foreseeable future. There are some areas of free walking (the Orchard, the Forest School Area) and in these areas both plants and soil will be monitored. Any semi-established paths will be moved every few years to allow the ground to recover.
Green spaces	Repeated heavy use of certain open areas long term impact to the soil and plants.	The sports field has so far not seen any heavy use, but grass and soil will be monitored and in any deteriorating areas (eg around goals or cricket pitches) it will be the responsibility of the Site Management team to consider possible actions.
Ponds, streams and waterways	Litter, heavy footfall and loss of surrounding vegetation can all impact the aquatic flora and fauna	All watercourses and ponds are inaccessible to pupils unless on a designated activity with an adult who can unlock the area. The Forest School area has an open drainage pond in it, which will be out of bounds to all pupils when foraging.
Collecting Wood	Dead wood is important to any woodland ecology as it has a multitude of uses, from homes for mini beasts to beds for fungi, so a lack of it is bad for any woodland habitat. The same is true for leaf litter.	There is limited dead wood on site, so when having fires it is highly likely that wood will have to be brought in by the Forest School Leader. The frequency of fires will be considered and we will collect only the minimum amount required for



		any given fire. We will also not collect wood in certain areas.
Use	Impact	Control Measures
Fires	Changes in soil chemistry can lead to increases in PH levels, carbon, phosphorous, etc. which can be harmful to some plants, whilst other essential nutrients may be depleted. Fire can travel underground to roots even after appearing to be extinguished.	There is currently a single designated fixed location for an open fire in the Forest School Area and no other open fires are permitted outside of this area. The Forest School leader shall ensure that only natural materials are burnt on this fire and ash will be disposed of away from watercourses. The Forest School Leader is also responsible for extinguishing all fires fully before they leave the site. Any cooking on stoves (gas or trangias) should be done in an open space, ideally on a hard surface but may also be on grass providing it is short and the risk of fire is minimal. They should be well spaced and children monitored closely.
Cooking	Food waste may attract animals to the site or increase numbers of certain species, potentially leading to adverse changes in biodiversity.	Any specifically organised activities using food outside will take away all food waste with them. Bins are provided in the playground areas for everyday waste disposal.
Tree Climbing, Shelter Building & Swings	Damage to trees.	The potential for this at the moment on the site is quite minimal, but this will be restricted to suitable trees that will tolerate them. Children will be taught to risk assess trees for climbing so they learn to manage risk with guidance.
Scavenger hunts/ collecting leaves/wood	Damage to plants - some plants are far more sensitive to losing their leaves or flowers than others and different seasons affect this too.	Collecting activities will be limited to the Forest School Area and the grassy open space immediately behind it. Where necessary, children will be guided on which types of plants are best to pick (if any) and encouraged to collect fallen leaves or flowers where possible.



3. Campus Management Plan

By operating in a way that minimises waste, optimises recycling and promotes the reuse and respect of materials CEC hopes to demonstrate and encourage a wider respect for the environment, as well as an understanding that all produce and waste is linked to the health of our planet as a whole. This whole campus ethos is supported through teaching and learning opportunities within the classroom and will be the responsibility of all users of the Campus. An outline of CEC's approach to this is detailed below:

3.1 Biodiversity

To protect our on-site flora and fauna, CEC will ensure that the activities listed in Section 1 cause no significant lasting damage by following the mitigations set out in Section 2. However, CEC also aims to increase the biodiversity found on site.

Areas of Focus: To Respect and Restore our Environment

- The Eco Team work with Site Management and outside companies e.g. the woodland trust to create new habitats within the Campus: planting new trees; hanging bird and bat boxes; creating piles of stones, logs, dead plant stems and fallen leaves for insects; creating 'no mow zones'; building habitats for aquatic birds; planting wildflowers and seed mixes for butterflies.
- To encourage respect for the environment through information campaigns and events. (e.g. Just One Tree Day)
- To carry out litter picks of Campus and the wider community.
- To actively engage with the TWMAT Climate Conference and trust wide initiatives and events promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity.
- Pupils will also be taught about the various species on site through their Science lessons and possibly through Forest School sessions. This will include trips outside the classroom to identify species on site and the opportunity for all pupils to take responsibility for protecting the flora and fauna on site.
- Site management will also regularly survey the Campus for any rare/endangered/protected plants or animals and additional procedures will be put in place where appropriate.



3.2 Health and Wellbeing – Suppliers and Purchasers

CEC understands that the choices made as buyers and consumers form a large part of environmental footprints and therefore will try to procure items that are produced according to the following criteria:

- as locally as possible;
- organically;
- from sustainable or renewable sources;
- ethically;
- with regards to environment, and workers' and animal welfare;
- with minimum packaging.

CEC will also aim to educate pupils about both Fair Trade and Food Miles. In the Primary phase there will be a food growing area and an orchard to teach children the 'Grow it – Cook it – Eat it' mentality. Pupils will have the opportunity to visit local farms in the Primary phase to see where their food comes from. The Eco Team will work closely with food providers to the campus to support and encourage healthy eating and wellbeing on Campus. It is the responsibility of all staff to assist in developing a successful methodology and ensure communication is ongoing to students and visitors on site.

3.3 Energy

The Eco Team and Sustainability Lead will work to enable adequate infrastructure and support (e.g. signage and methods) for the campus. It is the responsibility of all staff to assist in developing a successful methodology and ensure communication is ongoing to students and visitors on site.

Areas of Focus: To reduce energy waste and respect our environment

- To switch off lights when they are not in use.
- To keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- To make electronic devices are turned off when not in use
- The Eco Team to carry out regular audits of the above in order to monitor the reduction of energy usage on site.
- The Eco Team to present findings to Campus through Sustainability Updates and Assemblies



3.4 Water

The Eco Team and Sustainability Lead will work to enable adequate infrastructure and support (e.g. signage and methods) for the campus. It is the responsibility of all staff to assist in developing a successful methodology and ensure communication is ongoing to students and visitors on site.

Areas of Focus: To reduce water waste and respect our environment

- To turn off taps when they are not in use.
- To provide water refill points around the school
- To promote and provide (where possible) refillable bottles
- To encourage reducing water usage through information campaigns

3.5 Waste Minimisation and Recycling

The Eco Team and Sustainability Lead will work to enable adequate recycling and refuse infrastructure (e.g. signage, indoor/ outdoor bins and recycling points) for the campus. It is the responsibility of all staff to assist in developing a successful methodology and ensure communication is ongoing to students and visitors on site.

Areas of Focus: To Reduce waste, Respect our environment, Re-use and Recycle materials where possible.

- Eco Team to work closely alongside the catering company for school meals in order to reduce packaging and promote recycling.
- Children encouraged to bring their own fruit in for break time snack.
- KSF/1 provided with fruit at break times and all KS2 classrooms have composting bins for waste.
- Food waste bins provided in the Canteen at both break and lunchtimes as well as in staff areas.
- Provide opportunities to recycle plastics, metals, printer and toner cartridges
- To encourage recycling and reducing through information campaigns
- To reduce paper waste through promoting writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Reducing waste paper by filing photocopies for use at a later date.
- Reducing waste paper by sending information electronically whenever possible
- Each classroom having a scrap paper and a recycling box to enable re-cycling of unused paper, card and magazines
- The Eco Team to carry out regular audits/surveys of the above in order to monitor and promote the reduction of waste on campus.
- The Eco Team to present findings to Campus through Sustainability Updates and Assemblies

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- Outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it.
- Good condition uniform including football boots and trainers, will be collected washed and reused.

3.6 Transport

The Campus will work alongside Sustrans, the Eco Team and Sustainability Lead to enable adequate sustainable transport infrastructure (e.g. bike stores) are in place on the campus. It is the responsibility of all staff to assist in developing a successful methodology and ensure communication is ongoing to students and visitors on site.

Areas of Focus: To reduce Carbon Footprints and Respect our environment

- Promote walking, scooting and cycling into school
- To encourage safe cycling through information campaigns
- Encourage staff to walk/cycle to school and where possible share transport when going on courses etc.
- Minimise parking at school site to encourage alternative transport into school
- The Eco Team to carry out regular audits/surveys of the above in order to monitor and promote the reduction of waste on campus.
- The Eco Team to present findings to Campus through Sustainability updates and Assemblies