

# Sustainability

Highgate is part of the growing global community that is taking positive action to tackle the negative effects of climate change. We have prioritised 'Sustainability' as one of six core objectives in our School Development Plan and are working hard to embed environmental sustainability into our thinking and actions - through educating our community about environmental issues and by adopting effective sustainability practice. This work involves collaborative commitment from Governors, Senior Team, staff, pupils, parents and our local community.

## Priority Areas

As part of our Sustainability Strategy, we have identified 10 priority areas to drive forward our work. Some recent developments include:

Numerous community partnership initiatives including: a schools sustainability conference at Highgate with the London Schools Eco Network; working with 'FoodBank Aid' to donate surplus food and encourage community donations; environmental Community Days; 'No Mow May'; meeting representatives from the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum to promote increased biodiversity in the local area; partnering with Channing School to run 'Clean Air Days' and encourage 'green' travel choices.

- Our partnership with Powerful Allies to manage our decarbonisation and energy plan.
- Highgate pupils were recognised in The Week magazine for 'Inspiring Green Initiatives' after their campaign 'Fast Fashion Free February' was adopted by schools nationally.
- An environmental education curriculum review, across all three schools, is well developed; pupils' education starts in the Pre-Prep with the Forest Schools programme.
- Member of the pupils' Environment Committee presented to the Governors and signed up for the aspirational 'Let'sGoZero' schools' campaign.

## Buildings and Construction

We are committed to promoting sustainable forms of construction that limit the negative impact on the environment during the construction process and deliver higher performing energy efficient buildings to the estate, in line with current legislation and planning policy. Actions include:

- Assessing the environmental impact of the major building elements using whole life cycle models and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).
- Working with Ecologists from an early design stage to conduct Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEA). Appropriate measures will be implemented for the avoidance, mitigation, or compensation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Developments.
- Significant levels of landscaping and planting are to be included within all of the schemes.
- The proposed projects will have the capacity to adapt to the projected effects of climate change including fabric first approach to the building envelope, use of native planting, green roof areas, a drainage strategy accounting for future climate change and provision of low water use fittings.
- All projects are aspiring for Excellent BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) ratings, which identifies Responsible Construction Practices

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## Our 10 priority areas of consideration



We educate children of all ages about environmental issues and adopting effective sustainability practices, starting with Forest school in the Pre-Prep.



We have several committees whose members are responsible for driving through our Environmental Sustainability Strategy including pupil-led, active councils in all three schools.



We encourage families to adopt environmentally friendly travel choices.



Our head gardener is passionate about nature and the role that our grounds can play in promoting bio-diversity. He works closely with our school's co-curricular gardening clubs who have been busy planting trees.



Our pupils have led an annual 'Fast Fashion Free February' campaign which was recently adopted by other schools nationally.



Our bee-keeping society is very popular!



Both staff and pupils use public transport and active travel to journey to school; the school bus service is growing and eliminates thousands of car journeys.



Highgate School pupils are passionate about the environment and are proactively seeking change.