

Sustainability Policy

This policy should be considered alongside and in conjunction with our Curriculum and Assessment Policy; Educational Trips Policy; Professional Learning Programme

1. Introduction

Halcyon London International School recognises the impact that human activity has upon the environment. The School is committed to working together, as a community, to keep ourselves informed around sustainability and our environmental impact; working towards improving our impact as an institution; and developing in our students and staff an informed, caring and active understanding of sustainability.

2. Definitions

Sustainability is broadly the concept of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.¹

Halcyon recognises that sustainability is complex and multi-faceted, with both individual and collective responsibilities. It comprises system-level interactions between environment, economy and society², as well as cultural, technological and political aspects.

Learning and teaching about sustainability promotes living in such a way as to feel connected with, and responsible for, the planet, its resources and its other inhabitants³. It is to recognise and explore the complexity of interactions between human behaviours and the natural world, and to minimise detrimental individual and societal impacts upon the latter.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability>

² https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-05/documents/sustainability_primer_v9.pdf

³ See for example:

<https://www.derby.ac.uk/research/centres-groups/nature-connectedness-research-group/>

3. Aims

A. Long term objectives

- i) Seek to ensure the School continues to reduce its carbon footprint and to independently measure and report on this on an annual basis. Incorporate energy efficiency as a key component for new equipment, major renovation and new design.
- ii) Actively prioritise resource allocation to reduce the School's ecological footprint
- iii) Consider our material/major institutional financial investments and service providers' "green credentials" and seek to divest direct financial investments in entities that promote and engage in the upstream or downstream exploitation of fossil fuels, including financial services providers who invest in fossil fuels.
- iv) Be cognizant of environmental considerations when we source and select products and services.

B. Short-term objectives

Learning and teaching about sustainability is multi- and trans-disciplinary and necessarily connects to a range of foci across the School. Halcyon aims to

- i) reduce, reuse and recycle materials wherever possible
- ii) source electricity from a provider who supplies 100% renewable energy and also invests in new renewable capacity on an ongoing basis i.e. on a "green tariff"
- iii) develop structures for leadership and oversight of the environmental performance of the school
- iv) embed and promote the School's commitment to sustainability in all relevant procedures, including facilities and procurement.
- v) ensure that the curriculum is designed to support all students in acquiring
 - a) in-depth and increasingly complex knowledge of the interactions between humans and the natural world
 - b) relevant skills to foster their agency, both in and outside School, to make informed decisions about individual and societal impacts upon the environment.
- vi) provide all staff with continuous support and professional development opportunities to improve the School's overall commitment to and understanding of sustainability through operational outcomes, curriculum design, institutional values and mindset, and support for the personal actions of its community members.

4. Process

A. Leadership

A Sustainability Team, with representation from across the School, will be responsible for adopting and implementing sustainability initiatives and monitoring and reviewing the environmental performance of the school.

B. Teaching and Learning

- i) The curriculum will include sustainability-related learning outcomes across all disciplines, recorded in curriculum documentation.
- ii) Specific sustainability resources will be recorded in both learning and teaching planners (Google Classroom and ManageBac).
- iii) The School will promote connections with nature through learning in outdoor natural environments.
- iv) Students and teachers will encourage engagement in informed discussion and debate about the scientific, social and political implications of sustainability learning and practices.
- v) The School will commit to promoting sustainability awareness in relevant whole-school events.
- vi) The School will commit to review of sustainability learning, through regular curriculum review systems.

C. Sustainability development and resourcing

- i) The School provides staff with support and professional development opportunities to facilitate an effective programme of sustainability education, including but not limited to:
 - a) triannual curriculum learning workshops
 - b) an orientation workshop prior to the start of the school year
 - c) a resource library of digital and physical resources
- ii) The School incorporates its commitment to sustainability in recruitment information and procedures.
- iii) Staff will identify and implement sustainable resourcing for all out-of-School events and activities.
- iv) The School will offer, by choice, a vegetarian only menu in the school canteen.

HALCYON

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An exceptional education that draws out the unique potential of each student

Innovation | **Collaboration** | **Community**

D. Communications

The School will

- i) reflect our commitment to sustainability in all communications and marketing; for example, to prospective and existing parents, external partners, guest speakers, external trainers.
- ii) communicate at least once per year with Westminster Council, to support an active travel infrastructure.

E. Finance and Facilities

The School will

- i) take active steps to reduce, and better manage, school waste and consumption of water, including e-waste, classroom and catering sources.
- ii) encourage biodiversity wherever possible on the School campus.
- iii) provide staff with accessible and impartial information about choices promoting sustainability in their personal finances, including ethical investment under the School's pension provision.

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees, June 3 2022.

