SOLIHULL

Sustainability Statement of Intent

1. Introduction

At Solihull, we recognise the importance of operating sustainably, engaging our whole school community in our efforts, and equipping our pupils and with the knowledge and skills to respond to the challenges of flourishing without negatively impacting on the ability of future generations to do the same.

2. Reducing Carbon Emissions

Solihull School commits to a responsible approach in reducing carbon emissions, aligning with global and national net-zero targets. The school has already made strides in energy efficiency, employing technologies like LED lighting and solar panels. We have established a goal of **net zero by 2050** and will establish further interim decarbonisation targets over time, making energy savings where possible, and explore further onsite green electricity generation.

3. Engaging the School Community

a) Pupil engagement through the curriculum: Sustainability is integrated into the curriculum, fostering skills for future careers. All departments should seek to incorporate topics related to sustainability in their schemes of work.

b) Pupil co-curricular engagement: Sustainability-related projects, co-curricular learning about the outdoors and the natural world, competitions, assemblies, and guest speakers (and other such activities) should be used to ensure sustainability has a high profile within the school community and all pupils have an opportunity to engage with the topic to develop their interest, knowledge, and commitment.

c) Staff engagement: Staff are provided with the opportunity to undertake training and resources for continuous upskilling around sustainability. Sustainability is also raised at staff meetings to increase awareness of the school's actions and plans.

4. Transport

a) Transport to school: Long- and short-term initiatives should continue to be undertaken to reduce carbon emissions due to transport to school.

b) Transport for trips and visits: Staff should prioritise lower carbon trips and eco-friendly transportation for off-campus activities. The carbon impact of some school trips has been estimated to help make informed decisions and proposals for an additional levy on flights have been considered. Proceeds from such a levy would be put towards reducing carbon emissions at school.

5. Managing Resources

Solihull aims to minimise waste and promote responsible consumption. Initiatives include campaigns for effective recycling, awareness programmes, and monitoring water usage.

6. Managing Buildings and Grounds

The school commits to sustainable building and landscaping practices. Estates decisions consider onsite biodiversity and carbon emissions caused by building projects.

7. Reflection, Improvement, and Communication

Continuous improvement and reflection are integral to Solihull School's sustainability journey. Regular assessment of policies, seeking feedback, and transparent reporting will ensure a collective commitment to responsible stewardship.

Attending to the key areas identified in this policy, we have the means to continuously reduce the environmental impact of our operations, increase the knowledge and understanding of our pupils, and inspire our community to take a more responsible approach to stewarding the resources we have available to us for the long-term benefit of our pupils and future generations.