

Trust Education Group Ltd

Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

Trust-Education Group Ltd is committed to promoting sustainability, environmental responsibility, and climate awareness across all areas of its work. As a specialist SEMH provision, we recognise our responsibility to model positive environmental behaviours, reduce our environmental impact, and educate learners about sustainability in a practical, meaningful, and accessible way.

This policy outlines how sustainability is embedded within our buildings, operations, curriculum, and partnerships, with particular reference to our main site, Miles House.

Aims

We aim to:

- Reduce our environmental impact and carbon footprint
- Use resources responsibly and efficiently
- Promote sustainable behaviours among staff and learners
- Ensure our buildings operate in an environmentally responsible way
- Provide learners with real-life opportunities to engage with sustainability and environmental education

Our Building – Miles House

Miles House has been developed and maintained with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind. The building operates without reliance on fossil fuels and incorporates modern, environmentally responsible systems to reduce energy use, improve air quality, and support a healthy learning environment.

Key features of Miles House include:

- No use of fuel, coal, gas, or oil
- An air source heat pump system
- Eco-efficient lighting throughout the building
- Whole-house air recycling and filtration systems
- Water-saving and WRAS-compliant water systems

Energy Use and Carbon Reduction

Fossil Fuel-Free Operation

Trust-Education Group Ltd does not use fossil fuels such as gas, coal, oil, or petrol to heat or operate Miles House. This significantly reduces our carbon emissions and supports national and global climate goals.

Air Source Heat Pump

Miles House is heated using an air source heat pump. This system works by extracting heat from the outside air and converting it into energy to heat the building.

Benefits include:

- Significantly lower carbon emissions than traditional heating systems
- High energy efficiency
- Reduced reliance on non-renewable resources
- Consistent and controllable indoor temperatures

Solar Panels

Miles House is fitted with solar panels on the roof to harness renewable energy from the sun. These panels provide a significant proportion of the school's electricity needs, reducing reliance on the national grid and lowering carbon emissions.

Benefits include:

- Reduced energy bills through self-generated electricity
- Decreased carbon footprint and environmental impact
- Education opportunities for learners to understand renewable energy and sustainability in practice
- Supports the school's wider commitment to green energy and environmental responsibility

Learners will also participate in lessons and activities that monitor solar energy production, promoting practical understanding of renewable energy systems.

Lighting and Electrical Efficiency

Miles House is fitted with an eco-lighting system, using energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the building.

This system:

- Uses significantly less electricity than traditional lighting
- Has a longer lifespan, reducing waste
- Provides appropriate lighting levels to support learning and wellbeing

Lighting is also controlled with dimmer switches, allowing adjustment of light levels to reduce energy use and support a calm, comfortable learning environment, particularly beneficial for learners with SEMH needs.

Air Quality and Ventilation

The building uses a whole-house air recycling and ventilation system fitted with pollen and air-quality filters.

This system:

- Continuously refreshes indoor air
- Filters pollen and airborne particles
- Supports respiratory health and wellbeing
- Reduces the need for opening windows, improving energy efficiency

- Works alongside dimmer-controlled lighting to create a comfortable, low-stress learning environment

This is particularly beneficial for learners with SEMH needs, supporting comfort, concentration, and overall wellbeing.

Water Management and Conservation

Water Logic Systems

Miles House uses Water Logic systems to reduce water waste and promote efficient water use across the site.

WRAS Compliance

All water systems are WRAS (Water Regulations Advisory Scheme) compliant, ensuring:

- Safe and efficient water use
- Reduced risk of contamination
- Compliance with UK water regulations

Saving Water

We actively promote water conservation by:

- Using water-efficient fixtures
- Monitoring water usage
- Encouraging staff and learners to use water responsibly

Recycling and Waste Reduction

Trust-Education Group Ltd is committed to reducing waste and increasing recycling wherever possible.

We:

- Separate recyclable and non-recyclable waste
- Recycle paper, cardboard, and packaging
- Minimise single-use plastics
- Encourage reuse of resources where appropriate
- Dispose of waste responsibly through licensed providers

Learners are supported to understand the importance of recycling as part of their everyday routines.

Sustainable Learning and Curriculum Opportunities

Sustainability is embedded into learning opportunities across the core curriculum with activities designed to reduce carbon footprint and develop environmental awareness.

Ark Education Barn

Trust-Education Group Ltd works in partnership with Ark Education Barn, a fully compliant and fully sustainable eco-farm.

Learners regularly visit Ark Education Barn, where:

- Sustainability is demonstrated in real-life contexts

- Eco-friendly farming and land management practices are modelled
- Environmental responsibility is embedded in daily practice

Educational Sessions and Talks

Students are given opportunities to access talks, workshops, and hands-on sessions at Ark Education Barn.

These sessions are led by Mel and Shaun Taylor, who run the eco-farm and provide:

- Education on sustainability and environmental responsibility
- Practical learning about food production and land care
- Opportunities for learners to develop skills, confidence, and environmental awareness

Gardening and Vegetable Patches

Learners will also participate in gardening lessons and will, over time, develop their own vegetable patches. This provides practical experience in growing food, understanding seasonal cycles, and learning the value of sustainable food production.

Educational Visits in the Local Area

To reinforce sustainability and environmental learning, pupils will take educational visits in and around Ribchester, Lancashire, including:

- Organic farms to learn about sustainable food production
- Fair Trade establishments to understand ethical trade and sourcing
- Local nature reserves and conservation sites to study ecosystems and biodiversity

These visits provide practical, hands-on experience and help learners connect classroom learning with real-world environmental contexts.

Sustainable Meals and Food Packaging

Trust-Education Group Ltd is committed to sustainable food choices as part of our wider environmental responsibility. All meals provided on site are supplied by 'I'm So Good', a provider that uses 100% recyclable packaging for all meals. This significantly reduces waste sent to landfill and supports a circular economy. By choosing suppliers who prioritise environmentally responsible packaging, we help learners understand the importance of making sustainable choices in everyday life.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Senior Leadership Team: Ensure sustainability remains a strategic priority
- Staff: Model sustainable behaviours and embed environmental awareness into daily practice
- Learners: Engage positively with sustainability initiatives and learning opportunities
- Partners: Support shared sustainability goals

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current, effective, and aligned with best practice and statutory guidance.

Policy Lead	Melissa Wainman Director of Education
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