

Sperrinview Special School

Education for Sustainable Development Policy

Rationale

"Sustainable development is a concept which, because of its wide ranging and cross-cutting nature, is hard to define and even harder to put into practice. The most widely known definition of sustainable development is 'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' "

[The Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland (May 2006).]

"In principle, this involves safeguarding and using existing resources in a sustainable way to enhance the long-term management of, and investment in, human, social and environmental resources"

[Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report) - Report of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development.]

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has arisen from a combination of environmental education and development education. It aims to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to help young people make their own informed decisions about issues relating to the world around them and to be willing to take appropriate action. It is about pupils being able to examine the economic, social and environmental aspects of issues and developing a willingness to participate and take action in order to promote change which is sustainable.

Aims and Purposes are to:

- understand the interdependence of society, the economy and the environment;

- develop respect for the needs of both present and future generations;
- demonstrate how action can help improve the quality of life for people locally and globally;
- exercise environmental responsibility through the conservation of resources, waste-management and the promotion of local biodiversity;
- improving knowledge and understanding **ABOUT** the environment and development issues;
- offering first hand experience **IN** the environment and development issues;
- developing skills **THROUGH** the environment and development issues;
- encouraging informed concern and action **FOR** the environment and development issues.

Organisation

All staff in Sperrinview are committed to the principles of Education for Sustainable Development.

A thematic approach to all subjects is adopted and promotes Connected Learning. Education for Sustainable Development is incorporated into this thematic approach.

Sperrinview is an Eco School, having achieved the bronze and silver awards, and the Green Flag status. The sensory garden,

woodland classroom, tree trail and Maths trails form part of the overall educational environment in Sperrinview.

Each class [of compulsory school age pupils] have an opportunity to participate in an environmental visit one morning each week. The planning for these should complement ongoing Education for Sustainable development work.

The school estate is made available to other schools and the local community for a variety of purposes eg joint school enterprises, extension of the curricular offer, parent workshops and training, meetings, youth clubs etc

Inclusion and diversity is an important aspect of life in Sperrinview and is approached in a positive manner through, among other ways, Local and Global Citizenship. This allows for further investigation and learning to take place into Education for Sustainable Development in other countries.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mrs Laura Grimley is the co-ordinator for this area.

All teachers have a responsibility to incorporate Education for Sustainable Development into their planning and lessons.

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy.

External Support and Staff Development

EA Southern Region

Sensory Garden

Woodland Classroom

Tree Trail

Maths Trails

Biodiversity Officer
Local Council Facilities
Local Parks and Forest Parks

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a time-tabled ongoing process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____