



St. Paul's
C of E Primary School

Pesticide Free School Policy

Aim

Our aim is to eliminate all use of pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides on our school grounds. This will reduce the health risks posed to the environment, children, staff, and visitors on our site, and will greatly increase biodiversity within our school grounds and within the local area and promote sustainable land management practices.

Implementation guidelines

- To manage the grounds, we will continue to use a manual approach to weeding. Consider use of mulch and natural barrier such as wood and cardboard in vegetable gardens.
- Regular mowing of grass prevents too much weed growth in areas such as playing fields.
- When planting new plants, we will strive to plant hardy, native species to give the best possible outcomes for wildlife.
- Use methods such as companion planting to deter pests from areas where necessary, such as our vegetable garden.
- We will continue to work closely with any external grounds maintenance teams and volunteers that help us to ensure use of toxic chemicals are not used.

- Students, such as members of the school council, will be involved in any projects involving sustainability and biodiversity within school.
- Grounds will be regularly inspected to ensure all maintenance work carried out is in accordance with this policy.

This applies to all areas within the school grounds and includes playgrounds, playing field, gardens, pond, woodlands, pathways, and car parks.

Benefits

- Reduction in exposure of chemicals to adults and children
- Allow nature to thrive.
- Provides learning opportunities about pollinators, birds, predators, and the eco-system.
- The ripple effect – spreading awareness of this into the wider community to further increase biodiversity within gardens and the other outdoor spaces people might access.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher to oversee policy implementation and ensure staff training.
- Grounds staff and contractors to report issues and follow these policy guidelines.
- School groups such as school council to participate in environmentally friendly and biodiversity projects.
- Governors support and review policy yearly.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness is assessed and improvements can be made where necessary. Feedback from staff and students will be considered.

Headteacher Signature _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors Signature _____

Date _____