Baines School

Nil Sine Labore

Sustainability & Green Procurement Policy

Date Adopted by Baines School: 18th September 2023

Reviewed: 28th July 2026

Date approved: Approved by Governors: 14th September 2026

To be reviewed: Every 3 Years

Date of next review: September 2029

Greener Procurement

Baines School is committed to reducing its environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices across all areas of its operations. This Sustainability and Green Procurement Policy ensures that environmental considerations are embedded in purchasing decisions, helping to reduce carbon emissions, minimise waste, and support ethical and sustainable supply chains.

The School supports the Department of Education's targets to:

- **Reduce education estate emissions by 75% by 2037**
- **Achieve net-zero carbon emissions across the education estate by 2050**

Our practice of procuring products and services will endeavour to ensure that they are less harmful to the environment (land, air and water) and that they are made with less harmful materials when produced, used or consumed. This will include, where possible; buying locally, buying recycled and recyclable, using less chemicals and reducing the schools carbon footprint associated with products and services.

Additionally, Baines School will make use of government buying standards through use of the DfE approved frameworks and DfE Get Help Buying For Schools website.

Through responsible procurement and resource management, Baines School prioritises its aim to deliver value for money while contributing to a more sustainable future for its students, staff, and wider community.

Responsibilities

At Baines School, we embed sustainability into our curriculum and wider educational offering, encouraging both staff and pupils to think about how their actions impact their local surroundings and the global environment. Effective use of this policy promotes sustainability, fosters an eco-friendly attitude, and ensures the school community works together to build a sustainable future.

Management/budget holder will be responsible for ensuring orders are not processed with unnecessary purchases listed on them and that any items on orders requested are cost efficient, sourced from within the UK and locally where possible and are from companies with an energy efficient ethos.

Considerations

Packaging

At Baines, we follow the Department for Education-backed recycling guidelines. We separate dry recyclables (glass, metal, plastic, paper, and card) and collect food waste entirely separately from general waste.

To promote and maintain Hydration Stations around the school site to actively discourage pupils from buying single-use plastic drinks bottles.

In cases were packaging is involved we will if it is in our control, ensure as little packaging as possible is used by:

- Using biodegradable or recyclable packaging materials

Paper and books

- **Source recycled materials:** Prioritize recycled paper, books, and school supplies.
- **Default double-sided printing:** Minimise paper consumption across all departments.
- **Transition to paperless communication (where possible):** Provide newsletters and parent notices to emails, the school website, and Synergy.
- **Close the recycling loop:** Ensure paper waste is recycled and choose items made from recyclable materials where possible.
- **Select green vendors (where possible):** Partner with manufacturers that prove ecological responsibility.

Cleaning products

- **Minimise waste:** Reduce total packaging and product consumption across operations.
- **Eliminate hazards:** Limit chemical use and prioritize non-hazardous, COSHH-compliant products.
- **Optimise energy:** Select cleaning products engineered to perform effectively at low temperatures.
- **Train staff:** Ensure thorough workforce training on equipment and efficient cleaning processes.
- **Source locally:** Prioritize UK-manufactured products to reduce transport emissions and support local economies.

Office and school equipment

- **Energy efficiency:** Prioritise energy-efficient equipment models.
- **Eco-friendly products:** Select items with minimal hazardous materials.
- **Sustainable materials:** Choose recycled or long-life options.
- **Waste reduction:** Recycle all paper and cardboard whilst following GDPR guidelines.
- **Digital communication:** Use email or Synergy for staff messages where possible.

Batteries

- Prioritise the use of rechargeable batteries
- The school provides an accessible disposal point for non-rechargeable batteries, open to all students, staff, and the wider local community."

Lighting

- **Transition to LED Lighting:** Replace all existing light fixtures with energy-efficient LED alternatives at their end of life.
- **Install Smart Lighting Controls:** Incorporate motion and daylight sensors into all new constructions and facility refurbishments.

Waste

- **Maximise Waste Diversion:** Implement comprehensive recycling protocols to minimise landfill waste across all operational areas.

Transport

- **Active Travel Infrastructure**: Maintain and expand secure, CCTV-monitored bike and scooter storage.
- **Public Transit Alignment**: Coordinate with local bus operators to optimize timetables and capacity for school hours.
- **Eco-Friendly Off-Site Travel**: Prioritise methods of transport with modern, low-emission, or electric fleets for educational visits.
- **Promote walking to school**: Actively encourage walking to school through student and parent engagement.

Energy

- **High-Performance Glazing**: Mandate the installation of climate-controlled, energy-efficient glass in all new constructions to optimise thermal insulation and reduce seasonal heating and cooling demands.
- **Heating System Modernization**: Commit to the ongoing phased upgrade of facility boilers to high-efficiency, low-emission models.
- **Localised Thermal Control**: All radiators equipped with thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) to enable localised temperature regulation and prevent energy waste.
- **Renewable Energy Procurement**: Prioritise the sourcing of electricity from certified renewable suppliers, in strict alignment with the school's Energy Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Furniture

- **Local Sourcing:** Prioritise vendors and manufacturers that source materials and assemble products locally to reduce transport emissions.
- **Sustainable Materials:** Verify that items utilise recycled or renewable raw materials, ensuring all timber products originate from legally certified, sustainably managed forests.

- **Circular Lifecycle:** Select durable designs that are easily repairable, possess modular components, and can be fully recycled at the end of their lifespan.

Textiles

- **Ethical Sourcing:** Prioritise textiles made from Fairtrade-certified materials.
- **Sustainable Composition:** Select items composed of recycled fibres, certified organic materials, or natural fibres.
- **Verified Certification:** Target products displaying recognized eco-labels, such as the EU Organic logo or the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).
- **Circular Economy:** Evaluate the feasibility of sourcing high-quality re-used or second-hand items before purchasing new goods.

Food and catering services

- **Sourcing Framework:** Baines partners with suppliers within the Dukefield framework. This accredited network ensures full traceability and strict supply chain due diligence.
- **Local & Seasonal:** Dukefield and the school prioritise local, reputable suppliers and seasonal produce.
- **Ethical Standards:** Dukefield and the school procure certified farm-assured meats, MSC-certified seafood, free-range eggs, and organic products where possible.
- **Waste Reduction:** The school catering service utilise reusable cutlery and crockery, enforce strict recycling protocols, and prioritize bulk or high-recycled-content packaging.

Gardening products

- **Compost** organic waste. Utilise school-produced compost to enrich and maintain the school grounds naturally.
- **Manage** invasive species to safeguard native local ecosystems whilst protecting and monitoring wildlife habitats across the school campus.
- **Minimize** chemical pesticides.
- **Cultivate** native plant species to support local biodiversity.
- **Harvest** rainwater using rain butts. Deploy captured rainwater as a substantial source for landscaping irrigation.
-

Water

- **Water-Efficient Fixtures**: Upgrade to low-flow toilets during all facility renovations and refurbishments.
- **Smart Tap Technology**: Install self-closing, sensor-activated, or timed-shutoff taps during all plumbing upgrades to minimise waste.

- **Rainwater Harvesting**: Utilise external water butts to collect rainwater for landscaping and outdoor maintenance.

Building Repair and decorating materials

- **Maximise Existing Inventory:** Exhaust all existing and previously purchased materials before procuring new supplies to minimise waste.
- **Prioritise Sustainable Procurement:** Source sustainably produced and certified materials as the default choice across all operations wherever feasible.
- **Deploy Eco-Friendly Decorating Products:** Utilize low-VOC (volatile organic compounds), eco-friendly paints, and sustainable decorating materials to support healthy indoor environments.