



KIVUKONI ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Kivukoni School is committed to enlightening and educating its pupils about the importance of respecting the environment, and to actively demonstrating and promoting the possibilities of sustainable, eco-friendly development.

The school recognises that it has a duty to prepare its children with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage Kenya and the world's resources wisely, and to make a positive contribution by improving its local area.

We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst staff and pupils, and to think further afield where possible.

Guidelines and Procedures

Management Level

Purchasing--The purchasing departments will attempt to buy recyclable, recycled-content, less toxic and locally produced products whenever possible.

Alternatives to plastic in all areas of acquisitions should be sought where possible and practical, even if the cost is at times greater.

Waste Management—The school shall develop a waste management plan for all aspects of its operation following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. Waste management will be considered when planning developments or operations.

Resource and Energy Conservation—The school aims to be totally solar powered at all times, limiting the need to burn fossil fuels and produce CO₂. The school will continue to develop a resource and energy conservation plan for all developments. The school aims to use sustainable/locally produced or recyclable resources in its infrastructure wherever possible.

Care of all resources - The school aims to take good care of its resources, maintaining and repairing at all times to avoid unnecessary waste or purchases, as well as to model resourceful behaviour.

Disbursement of expired resources should also be carefully managed.

Water - The school aims to use and filter ground water as possible, and never to buy water in plastic bottles, either for daily use or for events.

It also makes steps to replenish water supplies by feeding water back into the water table via the well system where possible. We should all aim to be conscious of our water usage both in class and out of class.

Pest Control—Maintenance team shall inform the board or management whenever pest control measures must be taken. Environmentally benign methods of pest control will be used where feasible.

Landscaping—School management shall encourage the development of natural landscaping and wildlife habitats on school property. Grounds-care procedures that reduce the use of chemicals, fertilizers and herbicides will be encouraged.

Indigenous trees – indigenous trees benefiting the local eco-systems, bio-diversity and micro climate, will be planted frequently. Each new pupil, along with their parents, will continue to plant a tree in the **Wangari Maathai indigenous forest** until maximum tree carrying capacity is reached. Where one tree is cut, more will be planted.

Wildlife protection- Procedures by both grounds staff and teaching staff that ensure that wildlife, however small, is not harmed unnecessarily will be encouraged at all times. The same ethos will be shared with the children, and modelled by the teachers.

Environmental Profile – the school will endeavour to become an accredited 'Green school', both within Kenya and beyond, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development.

Curriculum and Teaching

- Environmental impact will be considered before the school approves curricula, teaching ideas and/or resources.
- All teachers should demonstrate awareness of unnecessary waste, and encourage reduced paper use where possible.
- All classes should have a scrap paper tray in the class, and use even for printing when appropriate.
- All printing habits should be tree-friendly (narrow borders, efficient use of paper, smaller font etc)
- The global care of the earth shall be reflected in the curriculum of all subject/discipline areas.
- The school will endeavour to develop curricula and make resources that will enhance the teaching of environmental issues available to teachers.
- Time should be allocated for trips and activities that deepen children's appreciation of their natural environment.
- Environmental education shall also take place ongoingly through teacher and staff modelling.
- The school will support environmental experiences that develop an environmental ethic in its students and staff.
- All staff will be encouraged to heighten their awareness of environmental issues and develop strategies that reflect this awareness.
- Teachers should take time to create and format work in a resource friendly way – reducing laminating, colour printing and page numbers where possible.
- Teachers will be encouraged to adopt and demonstrate conscious care of all teaching resources, from the use of exercise books and reading books to puzzles and toys.
- The children will review their eco-policy yearly (currently in Year 5 or 6).

- The children will design an environmental logo which will serve as a symbol of the school's commitment to the environment.
- Teachers should be careful not to present environmental issues with too much doom and heaviness, but rather look also on the positive side; look at the positive steps we (and they) are already taking, and how to take more positive action.
- Teachers should allow children to investigate and enjoy their natural environment in these formative years, in order to develop a love, understanding and appreciation for it in future.



Food Services

- The kitchen will use reusable dishes, cups and cutlery and where possible use bulk serving packages over individual or packaging. Supplies in unnecessary single use packaging will not be bought, and suppliers should be made explicitly aware of this.
- When food or beverages are served or sold in school or at school events, reusable dishes and containers will be used.
- Children bringing in packed lunches will not be allowed to bring packaged food or juices in disposable/single use packaging.
- Cooking will be done with careful thought about how to limit the use of gas .
- **Composting**—the catering department will encourage waste-free lunches and composting of vegetable and food scraps, other than cooked food (which will attract rats etc).

Transportation

Transportation—School bus service will be provided to reduce the amount of vehicles on the road.

School vehicles are maintained and operated in a fashion that has the least impact on the environment.

Unnecessary idling of school buses or other vehicles on board property will be discouraged.

Transport of resources – shopping errands should be planned efficiently ahead of time to avoid unnecessary trips.

Air Quality—The school has a wonderful fresh sea breeze and is surrounded by oxygen-giving trees and mangroves, and we will endeavour to maintain and enhance this status.

Where ever possible, the school will use non-toxic, hypoallergenic building and maintenance products.

Communication

- All staff members will reduce the school's use of paper by using double-sided copying where possible and printing materials only with due consideration.
- The school will continue to encourage a culture of 'soft communications' with its school community, to allow paperless communication to be reliable, unless in strategically considered circumstances.
- All staff should consider environmental impact when engaging in any school related activities, and will necessarily be reminded of behaviour that is contrary to this policy.

Community Level – Future plans

1. The school aims to widen its horizons in order to be able to encourage others in the community to enjoy and appreciate the local natural environment, as well as exposing them to a deeper understanding of its value for humanity, both now and in the future.
2. The school hopes to encourage the wider school communities to participate in the environmental education of its pupils through field trips, guest speakers, parent involvement in schools and the formulation of environmental plans for their schools and communities.
3. The school will promote its own school involvement in county, regional, national and international programs that promote good environmental practices (e.g. recycling, community beautification, resource and wildlife conservation and habitat improvement).
4. Staff Development--The school shall ensure that all employees are provided with instruction on environmental policy and practice.