Luccombe Hub

This document forms part of the policy handbook and is intended for use at Luccombe Hub

Title:	Environmental Policy
Subject Area:	Centre Administration
Applies:	Immediately
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Sponsor:	Henri Monier-Williams in conjunction with SLT
Contact:	Marcus Monier-Williams
Email:	Marcus@Luccombehub.com

1. Introduction

1.1 Aims

The Luccombe Hub is situated in rural Dorset within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and cares greatly about our environment. As a centre we aim to follow practices and procedures that reduce or minimise our impact on the environment around us.

As a Centre we aim to be

- To be mindful of our impact on the environment.
- To explore how we can enhance our environment through energy conservation, reducing waste, composting, recycling and reuse
- Develop an understanding of conservation through our learning e.g. Recycling, energy and water
- Develop responsible ownership of the Centres environment
- To acquire and promote open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.
- Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences the children will acquire skills to help care for our environment immediately and have a long-term impact
- Wherever possible The Luccombe Hub shall endeavour to place environmental / green issues at the heart of decision-making.

1.2 Consultation

The Luccombe Hub will communicate this policy to all staff, relevant professionals and learners through inductions, meetings, day to day communications, staff meetings and training. A copy of this policy and all policies will be available on request or via the website.

1.3 Legislation and guidance

This policy is written with reference to guidance from :

Social Farm and Gardens Code of Practice
Learning outside the Classroom
Equine Assisted Qualification
Natural England
Forestry Commission
Weeds Act 1959
Climate Change Act 2008
Environment Protection Act

2. Procedures and practice

2.1 Steps

Recycling

Recycling and Litter Bins: (labelled) - All bins placed within the buildings are labelled either recycling material or general waste. Waste collection for recycling and general waste is collected weekly.

Compost Bins:

Food items such as fruit peelings, cores and other organic waste is emptied in on and offsite compost bins located in the garden areas, (allotment, Pod garden and Bothy sensory garden) and within the kitchen area or composted via weekly food waste collection. All staff are encouraged to lead by example and role model composting of degradable materials. A separate food waste bin is within the Kitchen area for scrap for our Pigs at the farm.

Therapeutic Farm

The Luccombe Hub is a licenced site through the Local Authority and an approved EAQ Centre; the site is home to various animals, including, pigs, Alpacas, goats, herd of ponies, chickens and guinea-pigs.
The Centre undergoes an annual review of its farm as part of EAQ status and environmental issues are also reviewed. The aim of the farm is to use natural products where possible. The animals are mucked out daily and this is removed to a compost site on the neighbouring agricultural farm then used on the land.
Alpaca droppings, which do not require composting are used directly on our allotment site or sold to local gardeners for use on their own gardens/allotments.
Plastics are avoided where so ever possible.
Site check made for poisonous weeds and those that should be removed from grazing land e.g Ragwort, Laburnum etc. These are manually removed.

Energy

As a Centre we encourage energy saving procedures such as switching off lights and electrical equipment when not in use. When older lighting is replaced, consideration is made to choosing environmentally energy saving options for replacements.
Heating in rooms is kept at a reasonable and not excessive temperature and where possible unoccupied rooms are not heated.
Business journeys are kept to a minimum.

Water

The Luccombe Hub is mindful of it use of water and endeavours to take steps to reduce consumption where possible, like introducing rain collection system at the allotment and within the Bothy Sensory garden.

Luccombe Hub Gardens

The Centre has the use of two gardens; Pod garden and an allotment at Longmead Community Farm. The gardens are used for therapeutic horticultural and learning.

Forest School

The Luccombe Hub runs Forest school/Bushcraft sessions which is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education. Impact on the environment is monitored through visual inspection of the site and identifying local wildlife and flora & fauna. The Luccombe Hub aims to have minimal impact on the local environment used. No rubbish will be left, forest school 'furniture' is of temporary construction and low impact to trees. Mindful minimum disturbance to groupings of fallen wood that offer increased bio-diversity. Our Forest school is with permission from the landowner and adheres to any woodland management plans in place. The Forest school will be included in any Centre's environmental impact review .

2.2 Roles and responsibilities

The Centre Lead is ultimately responsible for monitoring the impact the centre has on our local environment.

All staff are responsible for role modelling environmentally beneficial behaviour and promoting it as part of curricular and cross curricular learning.

Learners are also responsible of being mindful of their actions on their environment.

2.3 Aspects

The Luccombe Hub aims to complete a review with the assistance of advice from Forestry Commission, Natural England and Dorset Wildlife Trust to improve bio-diversity on our farm site and green spaces.

As part of the Centre Improvement Plan, we aim to create a focus on environmental issues and climate change impact as part of our ongoing learning opportunities.

The Centre views environmental issues as being a natural fit with our curriculum and supports the ethos of learning outside the classroom. All staff encourage learners to nurture a respect for the environment.

Environmental / Green issues are discussed in the course of our learning.

3. Concluding notes

3.1 Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed a minimum of every 3 years.

3.2 Links to other policies

Curriculum Policy