

# Berry Hill Primary School & Nursery



## Waste Policy

Next Review Date: Summer Term 2019

Responsible Committee:

## Berry Hill Primary School – Waste Policy

### **Aims and Objectives:**

We aim for:-

- A greater awareness of waste management, waste minimisation and a whole school commitment to the 5 R's.
- A greater understanding of the problems associated with and solutions to waste management.
- All staff and pupils to respect our school environment and its contents.
- All staff and pupils to develop a greater awareness of local and global environmental responsibilities linked to waste through our work in school.

As a school on our Eco-Schools journey we are committed to good environmental practice. Waste affects us all. We all create waste and so we all need to take responsibility for the disposal of waste. As a school we need to value products and care about how they are made and used and how we deal with things when we no longer want or need them. We aim to cultivate a high level of awareness of waste management, waste minimisation and a whole school commitment to the 5 R's.

**Refuse** – The first step to minimising waste output is to prevent the waste from entering school in the first place. Wherever possible we will say no to waste in the forms of single-use disposables like bags, straws, cutlery, cups, as well as to junk mail, promotional freebies and other short-lived non-necessities.

**Reduce** - Our next consideration will be reduction. Where possible we will strive to choose products and resources with recyclable or no packaging. We will promote litter free snacks and lunches (for example fruit and reusable lunch boxes).

**Reuse** – There are lots of ways to reuse items that would otherwise be thrown out to landfill. Our Berry Hill Values Tree was made using carrier bags, Eco-Club ran a stall selling used clothes, books and games at the Christmas fair and regularly organise clothing collections.

**Repair** – Before we throw anything out we will make reasonable efforts to repair the item to extend its service life.

**Recycle** – It is a misconception that recycling is the best solution for waste reduction. The recycling infrastructure cannot keep up with the huge quantities of single-use disposables disposed of by humans. Many recyclable materials end up in landfill anyway or are burned to create energy. The recycling process itself is highly energy intensive. It is for these reasons that recycle is the 5<sup>th</sup> R. It is, however, still important and we strive to recycle as much waste as possible through, amongst other things, our class recycling bins for paper and card, ink cartridge recycling through Empties Please and battery recycling through The Big Battery Hunt. We also compost our fruit waste to make compost to use in school.

### **Summary**

Through the 5 R's we aim to ensure that people make good choices with regards to their waste, both at school and at home. By observing the 5 R's we hope to reduce waste in school and beyond. If we don't create waste in the first place there will be less to dispose of. Through our Waste Policy we aim to make our environment at Berry Hill Primary School as environmentally friendly and attractive as possible. We encourage all staff and pupils to respect our environment and hope that by educating staff and pupils at school we can contribute to ensuring that more people show more respect for our local and global environments too.

**Waste Policy written by Berry Hill Eco-Committee - May 2018**