



Green Sustainability Strategy

Ernest Bevin Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Responsibility: School Business Manager

Date Approved: Summer 2024

Approved by: Principal

Review Date: Summer 2025

Links to other Policies: United Learning Sustainability Policy

Statement

Ernest Bevin Academy (EBA) has made a commitment to have a positive impact on its local communities beyond the school, on the national education system and on the wider world, and this includes ensuring that its work is sustainable and seeks to avoid negative impact on the environment and climate. The school aims to do this in a collaborative fashion with students, staff, parents and carers. The school is educating the next generation for their future lives, conscious that those lives will be profoundly shaped by decisions this generation makes affecting the climate and environment. The school is clear that it has a duty to shift the way it operates, to ensure that its work is sustainable and to avoid negative impact on the environment and climate as far as is possible.

EBA is focusing on the amount of waste it generates, food eaten, travel commitments and the contractors it uses.

Aims at EBA

Waste

EBA has an internal commitment to recycling, repurposing and to carefully dispose of end-of-life items in order to avoid landfill. Everything on site is assessed and the school has built relationships from technology to metal recycling vendors to help ensure the environmental impact is minimised.

The school has the following objectives:

1. Continue with the good programme that is in place and improve it
2. Ensure that new staff and students are aware
3. Establish a better focus on correct recycling with the student Eco team
4. Put a plan in place for food waste from its caterer
5. Ban on single use plastic for school events and ask all students to have a water bottle that they can refill at the water fountains on site

As part of United Learning's sustainability journey, EBA is working to engage its students by encouraging them to think critically about the changing environment and preventing climate change, for example through specific focuses within the Eco team.

Food

EBA wants to make more sustainably conscious decisions about the food consumed, to reduce food waste and ensure waste is properly disposed of.

The school has the following objectives:

1. To adopt a meat free Monday with its caterer
2. Put a plan in place for food waste from its caterer
3. Promote food waste day in April

Travel

Ernest Bevin Academy (EBA) is situated in the inner London suburban area of Wandsworth close to the main A24, cycle (super) highway CS7 and Quietways 4 and 5, the Northern line at Tooting Bec (freely open to school students under current Zip card scheme), mainline rail at Balham and Tooting and many bus routes. It is roughly midway between Balham and Tooting which are both key towns within Wandsworth Council's 5 towns structure, the rest being Putney, Clapham Junction and Wandsworth Town. It is served well by green space at Wandsworth Common, Tooting Common and Fishponds Playing Fields and the newly developed Springfields site.

The immediate area of housing around the school main entrance is located within a CPZ requiring residents to purchase parking permits or use on street or web-based facilities to pay. It is currently outside of the Congestion Charge zone. All roads other than designated A roads are now speed limited to 20mph in Wandsworth.

The current Mayor of London has stated that he wants 80% of Londoners' trips to be made on foot, bike or public transport by 2041. It is the aim of EBA to be the local school of first choice and this ties in with the Mayor's target and the international work on 15-minute cities, which promotes a lifestyle based on the majority of one's needs being located within a 15-minute walking or bike radius.

See [15 minute city](#) and [London Living Streets](#) for further details.

To this end EBA's Sustainability Strategy seeks to reduce the use of individual vehicles as part of a strategy to reduce carbon emissions and to increase the take up of other healthier transport methods to improve health outcomes.

The aim is to encourage those working, studying and visiting the school to travel in the most efficient and sustainable manner.

EBA has already put in place some measures to encourage staff, students and visitors to the school to travel by more sustainable modes of transport. This document brings these interventions together, introducing new measures where appropriate to produce a coherent strategy for the future that will be reviewed and updated annually as the school and its external environment develops.

It also seeks to link with other relevant agencies, where appropriate, in order to be as comprehensive as possible.

The school has the following objectives:

1. To reduce the use of vehicles to those that are only necessary for core essential business activities and for disabled staff, students or visitors
2. To promote walking to and from school for both staff and students

3. To promote the use of bicycles to and from the school for staff and students. There are bike racks available on the school site. Staff have the option to use the bike to work scheme to purchase a bicycle - [Cycle to Work \(unitedlearning.org.uk\)](https://www.unitedlearning.org.uk).
4. To promote the use of public transport to and from the school. Students can travel free or benefit from heavily subsidised travel with zip cards.
5. Prioritise meetings with externals via Teams rather than face to face.
6. Ensure that new staff, students and parent/carers are aware of its aims.
7. Keep the details on the school website regarding how to get to the school using public transport.
8. Monitor and comment on planning and transportation consultation documents which will affect the school environment.

Energy

The school has been proactively reviewing its energy use since 2022 but it can do more.

The school has the following objectives:

- Reducing emissions associated with its estate – through the decisions it makes about energy use and measures to improve energy efficiency.
- Reducing emissions associated with its supply chain – through the decisions it makes about purchases and the suppliers it uses – using local businesses where possible.
- To use the swimming pool cover when the pool is not in use.
- Continue the programme of replacing existing lighting with LED lighting by 2026.

EBA has already taken some important steps to success in its green ambitions, but has a long way to go. Success will depend on everyone playing a part and by working together.