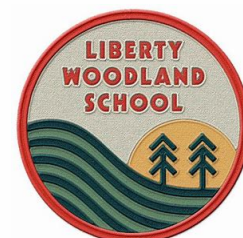


ISA Awards 2022 Case Study: Excellence in Sustainability

LIBERTY WOODLAND SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023



History of the School

Liberty Woodland School, based in Morden in South London, reimagines the traditional educational setting. Founded in 2019 by the current proprietor and Head, Leanna Barrett, it is reputed to be the UK's inaugural fully outdoor school. Initially established in Worcester Park as a primary school, it transitioned to Morden Lodge in August 2021, a site spanning three acres. The school has since expanded again, accepting senior students from September 2022 and has plans to introduce a sixth form in the near future.

The school's unique outdoor setting facilitates learning in all weather conditions, promoting a strong bond with nature. This design is deeply rooted in the correlation between nature exposure and positive mental health, aiming to stimulate pupils' creativity, imagination, and problem-solving capabilities. The rigorous, project-based curriculum emphasises real-world learning opportunities, ensuring that pupils are not just progressed academically but also prepared to tackle real-world challenges.

Situated amidst an array of habitats like woodlands, meadows, and river frontage, the Morden Lodge campus is a blend of modern and traditional architecture. The school promotes sustainability, drawing heating and hot water from a ground source heat pump and a water turbine, while solar panels cater to its electricity needs.



Leanna Barrett
Headteacher



A testament to its commitment to a healthy work-life balance, Liberty Woodland School operates a four-day week, allowing students longer days to deeply engage in learning and personal development.

Driven by its mission to nurture future changemakers, the school ensures pupils are equipped with the tools and knowledge to combat climate change. A series of initiatives, from restoring ponds to calculating carbon emissions for the school to lead towards a carbon zero school, underscores the school's commitment to environmentalism. These endeavours are not just academic exercises but transformative experiences, empowering pupils to see the real-world impact of their efforts. The school stands as an excellent example of independent education, dedicated to moulding children who will undoubtedly make strides in the realm of environmentalism and sustainability.

<https://www.libertywoodlandschool.com>

AIMS

- To provide a unique, nature-centric education, emphasising sustainability and holistic student development.
- To nurture pupils through a holistic approach to become the best versions of themselves, equipping them to be successful contributors to the 21st century and future changemakers in the world.
- To promote outdoor learning by emphasising the irrefutable link between positive mental health and engagement with nature. The move to a new campus in September 2021 solidified our commitment to this, enabling the development of a robust environmental program.
- To foster a love, passion, and admiration for nature among pupils.
- To equip pupils with the essential skills, tools, and knowledge to mitigate the adverse impacts of human activities on the environment.
- To champion sustainability, through initiatives like focusing on repurposed clothing and organising sustainable fashion shows.
- To reduce waste and promote these values not just within the school but to the broader community.
- To show pupils their potential to make significant strides in the realm of environmentalism and sustainability.
- To be committed to supporting and nurturing individual potential, aiming for pupils to achieve extraordinary feats and make a positive impact on the world.



ACTIONS

- The school was set up as an outdoor school focused on holistic child development alongside academic rigour, preparing pupils to be changemakers for the 21st century.
- We prioritised learning in a natural and calming environment.
- In September 2021, we moved to a new setting, enabling the establishment of a strong environmental program that became an integral part of daily school life.
- We immersed pupils in the natural world, fostering a deep connection and appreciation for the environment.
- Time was dedicated to nurture a love for the natural world among pupils. This passion was then channelled to equip pupils with the necessary skills, tools, and knowledge to counteract the negative impacts of human activities on the environment.
- By immersing our pupils in nature, we enhanced their wellbeing, support positive mental health and instill in them a sense of responsibility for safeguarding the environment.
- We carried out several initiatives related to sustainability and environmentalism.
- In April 2022, the pupils organised a London-wide community festival called 'Save Our Futures' to encourage our commitment to sustainability. This festival saw participation from COP26 representatives and the Ministry of Eco-Education. The festival also featured local community stalls focusing on sustainability.
- Pupils were encouraged to become environmental influencers. They chose specific areas of environmentalism, conducted in-depth research, and then used their findings to produce influential communications for the public.

