

DORSET RURAL MUSIC SCHOOL

ENVIRONMENTAL / SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

BACKGROUND

Climate breakdown and biodiversity collapse affect us all. This is a crisis affecting 8 billion people and it will take all 8 billion of us to solve it.

The UN warns that the window for keeping warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius is rapidly closing – by 2025 it will be almost impossible to meet the required annual global reduction targets. In 2021, the Government committed to a 78% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. The UK is also a signatory to the UN Leaders' Pledge for Nature and has committed to protecting 30% of UK land for the recovery of nature by 2030.

Every sector of our economy needs to rapidly transition and decarbonise, this is a whole society transformation, and the arts and creativity have a unique and significant role in this transformation. In a world where creative engagement has the power to broaden horizons, inspire activism and solutions, generate a sense of wonder and enable us to imagine different futures, environmental justice and a zero carbon society is possible. This is choral music; we need a mass of voices to rise up and resonate in harmony for the right to life for all species. We need to be a collective and just instrument of change.

It is our ethical, moral and legal responsibility to accept environmental responsibility for our practices and activities. This means monitoring, reducing and mitigating our environmental impact as an integral part of our business strategy, operations and programmes. It means doing things differently and being an advocate, working through partnership, collaboration and knowledge sharing, to encourage the people we work with to explore these issues, take actions to reduce their own impact and share this journey with us.

OUR COMMITMENT

Dorset Rural Music School (DRMS) is committed to provide a quality service that is sustainable, and which aims to minimise the environmental impacts of our operations. To meet our environmental commitment we will:

- Adopt best operational practices to reduce environmental impacts of our activities and policies
- Measure and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of our activities and ensure our use of buildings and services are able to adapt to environmental change.
- Monitor, manage and minimise our use of energy and water.
- Minimise the environmental impact of associated travel with our business.
- Minimise the amount of waste produced by DRMS and partners to encourage greater reuse in recycling.

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- Ensure environmental, including climate change, criteria are taken into account in the procurement of goods and services.
- Encourage and develop our employees, volunteers, partners and stakeholders to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Encourage and initiate the creation of work and activities that raise environmental awareness and champion sustainability.

To ensure we meet our commitments, we undertake to periodically monitor and review our environmental performance and take corrective action where necessary. This policy will be reviewed annually.

OUR ACTION PLAN

At the end of the 2021/22 academic year, DRMS appointed a new Director and under this new leadership has for the first time formally committed to action through the creation of this policy. We will undertake the following steps in the remainder of the 2021/22 academic year and forthcoming 2022/23 academic year to identify, understand and take action to address the following areas of our operation that impact the environment

1. Create a baseline for the energy we use at the music school and take steps to reduce our energy consumption (for example, heating fewer rooms, switching to low energy use solutions) where possible.
2. Maximise Office and home office recycling and reuse of waste by our core staff, peripatetic teachers and students.
3. Achieve sustainably sourced paper and print production by September 2022.
4. Where possible collaborate with artists and suppliers who operate in an environmentally aware manner.
5. Develop projects which engage with Climate Change and related environmental and sustainable issues.
6. Review, develop and continue to action the current sustainable travel plan for our core staff, peripatetic teachers and students.
7. Develop plans for large scale events (for example our 75th anniversary event) to encourage sustainable travel by our audiences.

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