

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

Bridgend College has over 6,000 learners and employs around 600 members of staff. We offer an extensive range of courses from Entry through to Degree level in over 20 vocational areas and from four locations based at Bridgend, Pencoed, Queens Road and Maesteg. Further, Penybont 6th Form College is currently a Bridgend College and Pencoed Comprehensive School partnership.

With an ambition to be an extraordinary organisation, Bridgend College recognises and accepts that concern for the natural world, education for sustainability, health, wellbeing and safety of all members of its staff, students, contractors, visitors and members of the local and global community is an integral and fundamental part of the Colleges' strategy for success. We will inspire people, celebrate and share success and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value it brings to our learners, staff, businesses and wider society. As a major employer and educational provider, we recognise that we are an enabler of positive change and that our decisions have impacts far beyond the College boundary, in the present and into the future.

Bridgend College is wholly committed to education for sustainability, the protection of people's health and wellbeing, its estate, the natural world and the prevention of pollution in all its forms and we will continually improve the HSE management system to support this commitment. This has the full support of the Governing Body, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Principal who is ultimately responsible for its execution and ensuring that it is a prime concern of all members of staff and students.

Bridgend College is committed to making sustainable development (health, education, wellbeing, safety and the natural world) the central organising principle against which decisions and policies are made. In 2018 we were the first Welsh College to become a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) Accord, committing to mandatory reporting at an international level. Further, in 2019, we were the first college in the UK to declare a climate emergency. Our significant impacts include curriculum delivery, consumption of electricity and gas, use of transport, waste to landfill, water use, goods and services procured, infrastructure, land use and biodiversity. We will identify threats from our activities and either eliminate or effectively control them and, as a minimum, we will comply with all relevant legislation and other requirements and fully cooperate with all relevant authorities. Going forward we will:

- Demonstrate extraordinary leadership and develop extraordinary leaders throughout the organisation to help us achieve our educational, health, wellbeing, safety and natural world goals
- Ensure that decision-making, at all levels, takes account of social, economic and environmental costs as part of a growth mindset
- Work tirelessly to cut carbon emissions through our 'Zero by 2040 Climate Emergency Strategy'
- Maintain the Platinum level of the Corporate Health Standard for health, wellbeing and safety
- Report the impacts of our ambitions to be an extraordinary organisation to the UN as part of the SDG Accord
- Ensure that responsibilities for ensuring world-class safety, wellbeing, health and sustainability at the college are effectively assigned, accepted and fulfilled at all levels
- Set specific targets for improving general health, wellbeing, mental health, safety and the natural world within our publicly available Sustainable Development Strategy
- Continue to embed and develop Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) within the organisation and ensure that every member of staff, at every level, is supported to help us achieve our collective goals and ambitions
- Ensure that we demonstrate openness and clarity in public-facing reports

This policy statement will be brought to the attention of all members of staff and students, and copies will be freely available to the general public, suppliers, contractors and regulatory authorities. This document will be reviewed, at least, on an annual basis.

Simon Pirotte

Date:

15 October 2020



(Principal and CEO)

On behalf the Senior Management Team