

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) POLICY

1. Purpose

The ESG Policy outlines Newbattle Abbey College's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, positive social impact, and sound governance practices. As a small, specialist college, we aim to integrate ESG principles into our operations, decision-making, and community engagement, commensurate with our context.

2. Responsibilities

- The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing and maintaining the Policy
- The Principal and Senior Management Team are responsible for ensuring ESG principles are embedded in the work and life of the College.
- All staff have a responsibility to adhere to ESG principles.

3. Environmental Commitment

- Energy Efficiency: we will promote and adopt energy-saving practices and continue to explore renewable energy and other options, within budgetary constraints, to reduce or offset our carbon footprint.
- Waste Reduction: we will minimise waste through efficient use of resources and materials, recycling and reusing materials, and reducing single-use items.
- Sustainable Procurement: we will, where possible, prioritise suppliers and products with strong environmental credentials and local suppliers.
- Green Spaces: we will maintain and enhance our green areas on campus to support biodiversity and wellbeing.
- Students: we will embed skills for sustainability in our curriculum and student experience.
- Staff: we will support our staff knowledge and skills for sustainability.

3. Social Responsibility

- Equality & Diversity: we will promote equal opportunities and celebrate diversity among staff, students, visitors and stakeholders.
- Wellbeing: we will support mental and physical health through accessible services and a positive campus culture.
- Community Engagement: we will maintain strong relationships with our local communities through partnerships and engagement, through our educational provision and through access to our estate.
- Safeguarding: we will ensure robust safeguarding policies are in place for all vulnerable individuals.

4. Governance Practices

- Compliance: we will adhere to all relevant laws, regulations, codes of practice and educational standards.
- Ethical Conduct: we will demonstrate and expect integrity and ethical behaviour across all levels of the College.
- Risk Management: we will identify and manage ESG-related risks proactively.
- Stakeholder Engagement: we will listen to and involve students, staff, partners and stakeholders in decision-making processes.

5. Related policies and documents

- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Dignity and Respect Policy
- Fitness to Study Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges

6. Review

The ESG Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Board of Directors.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant College policies, procedures and guidance documents, whether specifically listed above or subsequently published or amended.

The College reserves the right to update, introduce, or revise policies and procedures from time to time.

Compliance with the most current versions of applicable policies and procedures, as published, is expected.

Title:	Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Policy
Lead Officer:	Principal
Date last reviewed	March 2026
Next Review date:	March 2029
Approved By:	Board 2026
Date first approved:	2026