
Corporate and Social Responsibility

Policy

AQA is committed to being a force for good in education and making a positive difference in the world. We believe in operating in a responsible and sustainable manner, this means applying social, ethical and environmental principles to good business practice for sustainable, commercial success.

AQA's corporate and social responsibility principles and practice

1. To maintain strong business ethics:

- meeting, and where possible, exceeding all relevant legal requirements
- behaving with honesty and integrity in all our activities and relationships
- acting ethically and fairly when dealing with our stakeholders
- maintaining internal controls that are adequate to ensure standards are met.

2. To manage our environmental impacts:

- maintaining our international environmental management system standard (ISO 14001) certification
- making the most efficient and effective use of resources, encouraging all staff to develop a sustainable approach to their work
- minimising carbon emissions from business travel by avoiding unnecessary travel
- promoting sustainable modes of transport for commuting to work
- identifying and implementing cost-effective measures to reduce energy and water consumption
- reducing the amount of waste generated and disposed to landfill through a waste minimisation and recycling strategy
- managing our grounds in an environmentally and biodiversity-sensitive manner.

3. To promote sustainable development through our procurement practices:

- implementing our product and services procurement policy that includes consideration of CSR in all evaluations of tenders
- working with suppliers to help achieve our procurement policy aspirations in the delivery of our products and services
- supporting the principles of fair trade.

4. To encourage our staff to be active citizens, committed to high performance and continuous improvement:

- promoting an organisational culture that embodies charity ethos and values
- attracting and retaining high calibre people
- enabling people to achieve their full potential in delivering AQA's success, and encourage creativity and innovation in appropriate circumstances
- treating people with respect
- maintaining our health and safety management system standard (OHSAS 18001) certification.

5. To support the local and wider community:

- a volunteering policy that enables staff who wish to undertake voluntary activities to do so
- enabling our staff to support charitable organisations through payroll giving, voluntary fundraising activities and giving them the time and opportunity to participate in charitable events
- helping young people through our Unlocking Potential programme.