Corporate Ref.	EC002
Level	2
Senior Responsible Officer	Board of Management
Version	1
EIA	
Approved by	Board of Management
Approved date	11/06/2024
Superseded version	N/A
Review date	June 2026

Edinburgh College

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Statement

Version Control

Version	Author	Date	Changes

1. SUSTAINABILITY AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Edinburgh College acknowledges the importance of upholding corporate social responsibility in line with our [Strategic Ambitions](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#). We understand that our actions impact various stakeholders, including the communities we represent and our workforce. Our commitment lies in fostering ethical behaviour, contributing to economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for individuals within our region.

2. ETHICAL CONDUCT AND GOVERNANCE

Integrity, transparency, and accountability form the bedrock of our operations. We adhere unwaveringly to the highest standards of ethical conduct and responsible governance. Our interactions with all stakeholders are guided by principles of honesty, fairness, and respect. We diligently comply with applicable laws, regulations, and industry best practices, ensuring the responsible management of resources, finances, and information.

In our engagements with external bodies, we prioritise due diligence, ensuring that associations with business, commercial, financial, or voluntary organisations align with our Strategic Objectives. We seek partnerships across the region that promote educational, economic, social, and cultural opportunities for our students, our employees, and welcome those from further afield.

3. OUR STUDENTS

As a socially responsible institution, Edinburgh College holds a special responsibility for the safety, care, and wellbeing of our students. We recognise the challenges some students face, including family breakdown, generational unemployment, intercultural fluency, poverty, and mental health issues. In response, we provide a range of professional services, including a dedicated Wellbeing Hub, access to online resources such as Silver Cloud, and referrals for student counselling services. We also implement initiatives to safeguard students, especially those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

4. OUR EMPLOYEES

As Scotland's Capital College, we prioritise the health and wellbeing of our teaching and professional services staff. We have been honoured with the Healthy Working Lives (HWL) Gold Award, utilising HWL's programs and framework to address the diverse needs of our employees, including physical and mental health. Through various events, initiatives, and continuous professional development activities, we promote a healthy lifestyle among our employees.

We are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and actively challenge systemic racism. Additionally, we foster an open and honest culture where employees feel empowered to question and challenge senior management. We have been recognised as a Living Wage Employer, a Disability Confident Employer, a Carer Positive Employer, a SCQF Inclusive Recruiter, and have achieved Silver Armed Forces Employer Recognition.

5. OUR COMMUNITY

We highly value the collaboration and engagement of our stakeholders, including students, employees, local communities, industry partners, global stakeholders and policy decision-makers. By actively involving them in decision-making processes, promoting transparency, and maintaining open communication channels, we aim to build strong and mutually beneficial relationships.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Edinburgh College is deeply committed to environmental sustainability, both through our policies and our role as an educator. We acknowledge the Climate Emergency and its direct link to human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. In alignment with Scotland's efforts to achieve Net Zero, we have signed the College Development Network's College Climate Emergency Commitment, demonstrating our determination to address this pressing issue.

Our comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Strategy outlines our ambition to be at the forefront of environmental sustainability in our learning, teaching, partnerships, and operations. We have reduced carbon emissions by 50% against the 75% target set for 2024 and are actively now looking at resetting our targets to see if it is feasible to

achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Our approach includes procurement policies, employee awareness initiatives, estate management, and a commitment to reducing employee travel. We regularly report on our progress through key performance indicators and fulfil our duties through the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

End of document