



### **Building an Environmentally Sustainable Business**

We are working to build an environmentally responsible and sustainable business at Schoolblazer.

We have started by adopting a single core principle:

## Durability = Sustainability

The best way to reduce the environmental impact from clothing is to manufacture fewer things and ensure that each item will last<sup>1</sup>. We design all of our garments to be worn for at least 2 years – that's well over 100 times. In contrast, the average fashion garment is worn just 7 times before being discarded<sup>2</sup>. This requires a clear and stringent approach to textile development, garment testing and quality control, but minimises the total cost for the planet and our customers.

As part of this we are introducing a repair service in autumn 2021 to enhance the longevity of our garments.

We do still need to produce new garments, so we are committed to building an environmentally responsible supply chain.

We have adopted five core initiatives to ensure that the items we produce under our Schoolblazer or Limitless brands to minimise our environmental impact. We know we could do more and plan to add more initiatives over time but we are a small part of a giant industry. These initiatives let us make the biggest impact quickly and help us drive wider industry change.



### **1. Sustainable Cotton**

We are proud members of the Better Cotton Initiative/BCI<sup>3</sup>. The Better Cotton Initiative/BCI connects people and organisations throughout the cotton sector, from field to store, to promote measurable and continuing improvements for the environment, farming communities and the economies of cotton-producing areas. By buying cotton products from Schoolblazer, you're supporting the Better Cotton Initiative/BCI Farmers who use water efficiently, care for soil health and natural habitats, reduce use of the most harmful chemicals and respect workers' rights and wellbeing. Better Cotton is sourced via a system of Mass Balance.

In 2021 over 25% of our cotton was sourced as Better Cotton. We are committed to sourcing 50% of our cotton as Better Cotton by the end of 2022 and as close to 100% as we can by 2024.



## 2. Recycled Polyester

Where we can, we plan to move to using recycled polyester. At present this fibre is more expensive and often doesn't perform as well as "new fibre", potentially compromising our "Durability = Sustainability" principle. This is a significant issue given the number of wears our garments experience, so we are proceeding carefully, working with reputable suppliers at the forefront of this technology and fully testing all our garments in use before adoption. We are also taking great care to ensure that any fibre with recycled claims is genuinely recycled – this is a real issue given the lack of any traceable chemical markers in these yarns and the opacity of the supplier base, many of whom are based in China.

In 2021 almost 15% of our polyester came from verified recycled sources, principally plastic bottles. We are targeting 25% by the end of 2022 and over 90% by 2024.

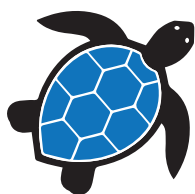
## 3. Clean Waste Water



Water pollution through the dyeing and finishing process is a massive global problem. We ensure that all of the factories supplying fabric to our supply chain have full water treatment plants and are fully inspected and compliant with the most stringent environmental legislation<sup>4</sup>.

Target: 100% Audited compliance across our mills supplying own label product.

## 4. Reduce Single Use Plastics



We have set ourselves ambitious targets to reduce the use of single-use plastics throughout our supply chain. We need to be careful as often these plastics are protecting our fabrics or garments during transport and simply eliminating them would lead to more damage and wastage, easily outweighing the environmental cost of the plastics and compromising our core, "Durability = Sustainability" principle. Where we need to continue to use SUP's we ensure that they are disposed of carefully and recycled where possible.

In 2020 we began to ship our jackets and other products in reusable outer packaging. This is returned to the factory after use, eliminating plastic bags.

In 2021 we successfully trialled the removal of all plastic packaging on coloured garments "ship naked" in a number of schools and we plan to

roll this out to more schools in 2022. These actions meant that in 2021 we reduced our usage of Single Use plastics by over 20%. This summer we plan to move our shipping bags to paper and move our garment bags to glassine where possible. At the same time we are ensuring that as much of the remaining Single Use Plastics we use in our business are made from recycled materials and are then recycled again after use. We have targeted a 70% Reduction in SUP vs 2018 benchmark by end 2022 and 80% by 2024.



### **5. Reduce our Carbon Footprint**

We are very conscious of our energy usage. We are working hard on all aspects of our operation to minimise our Carbon Footprint. Where we cannot, we have partnered with Climate partner, the leading Carbon management company ([www.climatepartner.com](http://www.climatepartner.com)) to offset the carbon dioxide that we produce.

We now offset 100% of our Operational CO2. We are on-track to reduce our core operational CO2 usage by 20% by the end of 2024 with energy saving measures in our warehouse and offices.

#### Sources

1 – Wrap, Sustainable Clothing Action Plan  
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/sustainable-textiles>

2 – Barnardos  
[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

3 – Better Cotton Initiative  
[www.bettercotton.org](http://www.bettercotton.org)

4 – Oeko-Tex Standard Detox to Zero  
[www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)