St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

School Climate Action Plan

2025-26







A Prayer for The Jubilee Year

Creator God, You have entrusted us with the core of Your creation. We ask for the strength and wisdom to be faithful stewards of the Earth, that we may protect the beauty and resources of the planet for the future generations. May this Jubilee Year be a time of renewal, healing and hope for all creation.

Through Christ or Lord, Amen



At St Joseph's Catholic primary School, we are deeply committed to fostering a sustainable future and embracing our role as stewards of God's creation. Guided by our values and the call to care for our common home, we strive to integrate sustainable practices into every aspect of school life. Through education, we empower our students to understand the challenges of climate change and inspire them to take meaningful action towards a greener, more sustainable world. Together, as a community, we aim to nurture a culture of environmental responsibility that reflects our faith and dedication to preserving the beauty and resources of our planet for generations to come

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Climate Action Plan

Actions Already Taken

- Established the Stewards of the Earth pupil leadership group to champion sustainability initiatives.
- Achieved Eco School Status
- Some LED lighting throughout the school to improve energy efficiency with this continuing throughout school building
- Implemented Meat-Free Mondays and introduced daily vegetarian meal options in the school lunch menu. Meals are pre-ordered to reduce waste
- Gardening Club held with 'Ground's Day' being held annually (community invited in to school to help look after school grounds)
- We have a vegetable patch – children have sold the produce at local farm shop.
- Installed bird feeders and bug houses to enhance biodiversity on school grounds.
- Delivered staff CPD sessions on climate change and sustainability integration.
- Launched water-saving campaigns with signage in classrooms and communal areas.
- Introduced Bikeability training and improved secure bike storage to encourage active travel.
- Begun regular monitoring of energy use by site management staff.
- Established partnerships with Eco Education and local environmental groups for workshops and biodiversity projects.
- Adopted digital communication tools to reduce paper usage and encourage paperless office practises.
- Golden thread 'Sustainability' which runs through our curriculum
- School pond developed to encourage wildlife to our school grounds
- We have a successful Forest School provision – learning outside the classroom which focuses on sustainability projects
- Stewards of the Earth launched the Cafod iniatives – 'Tackle Debt Crisis' and 'Looking after our Common Home'.
- New Boiler recently being fitted which will improve carbon emissions.
- Air quality in school monitored – staff are encouraged to open widows and doors to allow fresh air to circulate.
- Students are educated about air pollution and how they can reduce their own exposure to pollution and how they can reduce their contribution to it.

1. Staff Expertise

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Enhance staff knowledge and skills on climate change and sustainability	1. Organise ongoing CPD sessions focusing on curriculum integration and practical sustainability. 2. Provide training on embedding climate education across all subjects, including non-core areas. 3. Invite external sustainability experts for specialised workshops.	Headteacher / Sustainability Lead	- CPD budget - Access to expert trainers - Time allocation for training	- 100% teaching staff complete annual sustainability CPD. - Increased confidence in delivering climate education. - Positive staff feedback on training impact.	Climate education and green careers
Build capacity for monitoring and improving energy efficiency	1. Train designated staff to conduct monthly energy audits. 2. Develop protocols for prompt response to energy inefficiencies. 3. Share regular energy-saving communications with staff.	Site Manager / Office Manager	- Energy monitoring tools - Training materials - Staff time	- Monthly energy reports produced. - Year-on-year energy cost reductions. - Staff engagement in energy-saving behaviours improved.	Decarbonisation

2. Staff/Pupils

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Foster a culture of sustainability among pupils and staff	1. Maintain reminders to switch off lights/appliances and conserve water. 2. Use air quality monitors to educate on healthy environments. 3. Promote sustainable behaviours through assemblies and campaigns.	Sustainability Lead / Class Teachers	- Signage - Air quality monitors - Time for awareness activities	- Observable reductions in energy and water waste. - Improved air quality awareness. - Positive behaviour changes recorded.	Climate education and green careers

Address climate anxiety and wellbeing related to environmental concerns	1. Repeat and expand climate anxiety surveys. 2. Provide targeted wellbeing support and counselling. 3. Integrate nature-based wellbeing activities into the curriculum.	SENCO / Wellbeing Lead	- Survey tools - Access to support services - Resources for wellbeing activities	- High participation in surveys. - Support plans in place. - Improved wellbeing outcomes reported.	Adaptation and resilience

3. Buildings/Grounds

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Improve biodiversity and natural habitats on school grounds	1. Expand installation of bird feeders, bug houses, and wildflower planting. 2. Plant additional native trees and shrubs. 3. Fundraise and install green walls.	Site Manager / Eco Team / Parent Volunteers	- Materials for biodiversity features - Fundraising support - Volunteer time	- Increased wildlife sightings. - Successful biodiversity installations. - Fundraising targets achieved.	Biodiversity
Enhance energy efficiency and water conservation in the building	1. Maintain and monitor boiler and heating systems. 2. Continue LED lighting use. 3. Install and utilise water butts for garden irrigation. 4. Improve insulation and seal drafts.	Site Manager / Office Manager	- Maintenance budget - Water butts - Monitoring equipment	- Stable or reduced energy consumption. - Increased rainwater usage. - Reduced heat loss.	Decarbonisation / Adaptation and resilience

4. School Lunches

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area

Promote sustainable and low waste food practises	1. Continue Meat-Free Mondays and vegetarian options. 2. Encourage pre-ordering to minimise waste. 3. Implement composting of food waste. 4. Educate pupils on sustainable eating choices.	Catering Manager / Sustainability Lead	- Compost bins - Educational materials - Staff training	- Reduction in food waste. - Increased composting participation. - Positive pupil feedback on menus.	Decarbonisation / Biodiversity
Reduce single-use packaging and waste from lunches	1. Promote reusable lunch containers and cutlery. 2. Collaborate with suppliers to reduce packaging. 3. Provide recycling bins in dining areas.	Catering Manager / Eco Team	- Recycling bins - Communication materials - Supplier engagement	- Decrease in single-use waste. - Increased recycling rates. - Positive supplier collaboration.	Decarbonisation

5. Curriculum

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed sustainability and climate education across all subjects	1. Integrate sustainability themes into all curriculum areas. 2. Highlight green careers and pathways. 3. Use school grounds and local environment for outdoor learning. 4. Collaborate with external providers for workshops.	Curriculum Lead / Class Teachers	- Curriculum planning time - External expertise - Educational resources	- Curriculum maps reflect sustainability. - Pupils demonstrate understanding of green careers. - Increased outdoor learning sessions.	Climate education and green careers
Raise awareness of local natural environment and biodiversity	1. Explore local habitats in lessons. 2. Use school pond and forest school for practical learning.	Curriculum Lead / Forest School Leader	- Field study materials - Survey tools - Outdoor	- Pupils identify local species. - Completed biodiversity surveys. - High pupil engagement.	Biodiversity

	3. Conduct biodiversity surveys with pupils.		learning resources		

6. Wellbeing

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Support mental and physical wellbeing through nature and sustainability	1. Continue forest school and gardening clubs. 2. Incorporate mindfulness and nature-based relaxation. 3. Promote safe walking and cycling routes to school.	Wellbeing Lead / Forest School Leader	- Outdoor spaces - Activity guides - Collaboration with local authorities	- Increased pupil participation. - Improved wellbeing reported. - Higher active travel rates.	Adaptation and resilience
Address climate anxiety through supportive measures	1. Use climate anxiety data to tailor support. 2. Provide coping strategy workshops. 3. Embed positive environmental action to empower pupils and staff.	SENCO / Wellbeing Lead	- Survey tools - Workshop materials - External support as needed	- Reduced anxiety levels. - Increased confidence. - Positive feedback on support.	Adaptation and resilience

7. Opportunities for Pupil Leadership

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Empower pupils to lead sustainability initiatives	1. Expand Stewards of the Earth team. 2. Facilitate pupil-led	Sustainability Lead / Eco Team	- Meeting spaces - Project	- Sustained pupil leadership. - Successful pupil	Climate education and green careers / Biodiversity

	assemblies and projects. 3. Lead 'Travelling to School' surveys. 4. Involve pupils in biodiversity projects.		materials - Staff support	initiatives. - Positive impact on school culture.	
Increase pupil voice in climate action planning	1. Include pupil reps in climate action meetings. 2. Regularly collect pupil feedback. 3. Publicly celebrate pupil achievements.	Headteacher / Sustainability Lead	- Meeting time - Communication channels - Recognition resources	- Pupil input reflected in plans. - High engagement in surveys. - Increased motivation and awareness.	Climate education and green careers

8. Procurement

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Review and improve sustainability of school purchases	1. Review procurement to identify sustainable alternatives. 2. Prioritise environmentally responsible suppliers. 3. Implement sustainable purchasing policies. 4. Educate staff on sustainable procurement.	Business Manager / Headteacher	- Procurement data - Supplier info - Policy templates	- Sustainable products adopted. - Reduced purchase carbon footprint. - Staff compliance with policy.	Decarboni sation
Minimise paper usage and waste	1. Promote paperless communication. 2. Encourage digital documentation. 3. Maintain second-hand uniform shop.	Office Manager / Parent Liaison	- Digital tools - Uniform shop management - Staff and parent engagement	- Reduced paper consumption. - Increased digital platform use. - Higher second-hand uniform uptake.	Decarboni sation

9. Parents

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Engage parents in school sustainability initiatives	1. Promote volunteering opportunities. 2. Communicate climate action progress. 3. Encourage sustainable travel choices. 4. Involve parents in fundraising.	Parent Liaison / Sustainability Lead	- Communication channels - Volunteer coordination - Fundraising materials	- Increased parent participation. - Positive feedback. - Fundraising targets met. - More sustainable travel reported.	Climate education and green careers / Biodiversity
Raise awareness of climate issues and practical actions at home	1. Share energy and waste reduction tips. 2. Organise family sustainability events. 3. Highlight pupil-led projects to inspire families.	Parent Liaison / Eco Team	- Educational materials - Event resources - Communication platforms	- Parent engagement in events. - Behaviour changes at home. - Stronger home-school links.	Climate education and green careers

10. Transportation and Travel

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Promote active and low-pollution travel to school	1. Continue Bikeability and promote walking/cycling. 2. Conduct 'Travelling to School' surveys. 3. Promote safe, low-pollution	Sustainability Lead / Green Team	- Survey tools - Bike storage - Route maps - Engagement time	- Increased active travel. - Improved pupil knowledge. - Reduced car drop-offs.	Decarbonisation / Adaptation and resilience

	routes. 4. Provide secure bike storage.			- Positive family feedback.	
Reduce transport-related emissions	1. Encourage carpooling and public transport. 2. Monitor transport emissions annually. 3. Collaborate with local authorities to improve transport.	Headteacher / Parent Liaison	- Data tools - Communication materials - Local authority contacts	- Reduced emissions. - Increased public transport use. - Positive local engagement.	Decarbonisation

11. Digital Sustainability

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Minimise environmental impact of digital technology use	1. Promote energy-saving settings on devices. 2. Encourage responsible digital use. 3. Use digital platforms to reduce paper.	IT Coordinator / Office Manager	- IT equipment - Training resources - Digital tools	- Reduced paper and energy use. - Staff and pupils aware of digital sustainability. - Increased digital learning.	Decarbonisation
Monitor and optimise energy use of IT infrastructure	1. Conduct regular energy audits. 2. Power down unused devices. 3. Explore energy-efficient hardware upgrades.	IT Coordinator / Site Manager	- Monitoring tools - Upgrade budget - Staff training	- Lower IT energy consumption. - Increased energy-efficient devices. - Cost savings.	Decarbonisation

12. Partnerships and Collaborations

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Strengthen links with external sustainability organisations	1. Expand Eco Education visits. 2. Partner with local environmental groups. 3. Collaborate with faith-based sustainability initiatives.	Sustainability Lead / Headteacher	- Partnership contacts - Scheduling resources - Communication platforms	- Increased external collaborations. - Enhanced pupil engagement. - Positive community feedback.	Climate education and green careers / Biodiversity
Share best practice and resources with other schools	1. Participate in eco-school networks. 2. Host sustainability events for peers. 3. Share climate action progress digitally.	Headteacher / Sustainability Lead	- Network membership - Event resources - Communication tools	- Active network participation. - Positive peer feedback. - Increased resource sharing.	Climate education and green careers

13. Governance and Policy

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed sustainability in school governance and policy	1. Update policies to include climate commitments. 2. Develop severe weather policy. 3. Include sustainability targets in development plan. 4. Report progress to governors.	Headteacher / Governors / Sustainability Lead	- Policy templates - Review time - Expert advice	- Policies updated and approved. - Severe weather policy implemented. - Progress regularly reported. - Clear targets set.	Adaptation and resilience / Decarbonisation

Ensure risk assessment and safeguarding include climate risks	1. Identify vulnerable staff and pupils. 2. Incorporate climate risks into safeguarding. 3. Train staff on recognising climate risks.	SENCO / Health & Safety Officer	- Risk assessment tools - Training materials - Staff time	- Comprehensive risk assessments. - Staff trained. - Vulnerable individuals supported.	Adaptation and resilience

14. Resilience and Adaptation

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Build resilience to climate-related events	1. Implement severe weather policy. 2. Install water butts for drought resilience. 3. Prepare contingency plans. 4. Monitor air quality and adjust activities.	Headteacher / Site Manager / Sustainability Lead	- Policy support - Water butts - Monitoring equipment - Communication plans	- Tested severe weather policy. - Operational water conservation. - Minimal disruption. - Air quality informs decisions.	Adaptation and resilience
Support community awareness and preparedness	1. Conduct climate anxiety surveys. 2. Educate on climate risks and adaptation. 3. Engage parents and community in resilience efforts.	Wellbeing Lead / Sustainability Lead	- Survey tools - Educational materials - Engagement platforms	- Increased awareness. - Reduced anxiety. - Strong community networks.	Adaptation and resilience

This refined plan builds on St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's achievements while aligning with the OFSTED inspection framework and DfE climate priorities, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable whole-school approach.