Staining C of E Primary School Climate Action Plan

To be reviewed: Annually

Adopted by Governors: September 2026

To go to: Health & Safety, Buildings Committee

Approved by Governors: September 2026

Most recent amendment and review: September 2026

Purpose and Context

The Department for Education (DfE) expects all education settings to appoint a **Sustainability Lead** and implement a **Climate Action Plan**, as set out in the *Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education*.
Staining C of E Primary School recognises its responsibility to educate pupils about climate change, reduce its environmental impact, and prepare children for a sustainable future.

This plan supports the national ambition for the education sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **75% by 2037**, while improving pupil wellbeing, resilience, and inclusion.

Primary schools have a climate action plan because it:

- Meets **DfE expectations and strategy**
- Strengthens leadership, governance, and accountability
- Improves resilience of buildings and learning spaces
- Embeds meaningful climate and sustainability education
- Supports wellbeing, inclusion, and SEND needs
- Creates long-term benefits for pupils and the wider community

Sustainability Lead: Eco Leads (Miss Bryan & Mrs Barker)
Governance Oversight: Headteacher and Governing Body
Review Cycle: Annual

Strategic Priorities

1. Climate Education, Green Skills and Green Careers

We will ensure pupils receive high-quality, age-appropriate climate and sustainability education that empowers them to take positive action.

Key Actions (2026-2027):

- Deliver the **Eco-Schools programme**, including an active Eco Committee and Eco Warriors.
- Audit and strengthen curriculum links to sustainability, climate change and the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Embed climate literacy across subjects, including English, geography, science and outdoor learning.
- Provide weekly **outdoor sessions** to strengthen connection with nature.
- Promote awareness of **green careers** through curriculum enrichment and assemblies.
- Share learning and actions with families through newsletters and community events.

Success Measures:

- Curriculum documentation evidences sustainability links
- Pupil voice shows increased understanding and confidence

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2. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

We will actively reduce the school's carbon footprint through improved energy use, waste reduction and sustainable behaviours.

Key Actions (2026-2028):

- Introduce clearly labelled recycling systems across the school.
- Establish class-based Eco Warriors to monitor waste and energy use.
- Deliver termly **switch-off campaigns** and energy awareness drives.
- Improve heating efficiency through consistent use of controls and staff guidance.
- Monitor and share energy usage and carbon reduction progress.
- Promote sustainable travel through walk-to-school initiatives.
- Reduce food and packaging waste through pupil-led campaigns.

Success Measures:

- Reduced energy and waste data year-on-year
- Improved staff and pupil energy awareness
- Evidence of sustainable travel and behaviour change

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3. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

We will protect and enhance our school environment and increase access to nature for all pupils.

Key Actions (2026-2029):

- Register with the **National Education Nature Park** and map school grounds.
- Increase biodiversity through tree planting, bug hotels and gardening projects.
- Engage pupils in wildlife identification and environmental stewardship.

Success Measures:

- Improved biodiversity on school site
- Increased outdoor learning opportunities
- Positive impact on pupil wellbeing and engagement

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4. Adaptation and Resilience

We will ensure the school is resilient to the impacts of climate change and supports pupil and staff wellbeing.

Key Actions (2026-2027):

- Audit classroom temperatures and water use.
- Update health and safety procedures for extreme weather events.
- Assess local climate risks (e.g. flooding, overheating).
- Improve shaded outdoor areas for learning and play.
- Address climate anxiety through PSHE, pupil voice and staff training.

Success Measures:

- Updated policies and risk assessments
- Improved thermal comfort and safety
- Strong pupil wellbeing and emotional literacy

Monitoring and Review

- Progress reviewed annually by senior leaders and governors
- Actions updated in response to data, pupil voice and national guidance
- Outcomes communicated to the school community

CLIMATE EDUCATION, GREEN SKILLS AND GREEN CAREERS This area ensures that pupils are prepared for the future through high-quality climate and sustainability education. • Embedding sustainability and climate learning across the curriculum • Developing pupils' understanding of environmental responsibility • Building early foundations for green skills, careers, and citizenship • Empowering children to take positive action rather than feeling anxious about climate change			
Action	Target	Timescale Responsibility	Impact and Evaluation
Deliver the Eco Schools program	Set up an Eco Committee and Eco warriors club. Apply for the Eco schools award Summer Term	Ongoing Eco Leads	
Review the current curriculum and links to sustainability and climate change	Completion of curriculum review with documented connections to sustainability and climate change. update published on school website	By end Summer term 2026 Headteacher	
Review the current use of the SDGs in the curriculum and find more opportunities to thread them through subjects where they are not yet fully integrated	Review of current SDG integration across subjects by the end of Summer Term . Identify and implement at 2-3 opportunities to incorporate SDGs (e.g., in Math, Science, PE, etc.) by the end of Summer Term	September 2027 Headteacher	
Incorporate climate literacy into English lessons by including texts and writing tasks focused on environmental themes	At least one unit per year in English classes that feature environmental texts (e.g., poetry,	September 2027 Headteacher	

	fiction, or non-fiction articles about climate change);		
Review, enrich and embed opportunities for children to connect with nature and the outdoors throughout the whole curriculum.	Clear evidence of subject integration with outdoor learning activities; regular, documented learning about climate change in termly curriculum plans.	September 2027 Headteacher	
Develop international partnerships to exchange knowledge and promote global climate action awareness	Establish a partnership with at least one international school to share sustainability practices, engage in joint climate action projects, and participate in virtual cultural exchanges.	September 2027 Eco Leads	
Integrate geography lessons that focus on the impact of climate change locally and globally	Completion of at least one major geography unit per year centred on climate change, including a case study of a local environmental issue; student projects presented to peers or displayed in the school for awareness.	September 2027 Headteacher	
Find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.	Subject Lead to find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, At least one example of curriculum linked projects (e.g., Art project on climate impact, PE focus on outdoor sustainability activities, History lesson on environmental change) each academic year	September 2027 Eco Leads	
Promote green careers to pupils	Evidence of at least one session per year dedicated to green careers (workshops, career	September 2027 Eco Leads	

	talks, or visits from professionals in sustainability sectors)		
Create a section on the school newsletter to share challenges of climate change.	At least 3 features in newsletters posts per year about climate initiatives	September 2027 Eco Leads	
Educate students about the impact of food waste on the climate and encourage action at school and at home.	Integrate lessons about the impact of food waste on climate change into the curriculum, with at least one focused session per year. Eco warriors to do a school assembly	Ongoing Eco club Staff	
Encourage children to come to school on foot, bike, or scooter to reduce pollution near the school.	Increase the number of students using alternative transport (walking, biking, or scootering) by 20% by the end of the academic year.	September 2027 School Office	
Sign up to Cut Your Carbon campaign	Make all pupils aware of how to cut your carbon footprint. Eco warriors assembly and posters. Cascade to families through events/newsletter/social media	Ongoing Eco Warriors	

DECARBONISATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

This focuses on reducing the school's carbon footprint and environmental impact.

- **Reducing energy use (heating, lighting, electricity)**
- **Improving the sustainability of school buildings and grounds**
- **Managing waste, recycling, and water use**
- **Promoting sustainable travel and procurement**

Action	Target	Timescale Responsibility	Impact and Evaluation
Encourage students and staff to recycle electronics.	Organize at least one electronics recycling drive with a goal of collecting and responsibly recycling at least 50 electronic items by the end of the academic year.	Ongoing Eco Lead	
Establish "Eco Warriors" in classrooms to monitor and reduce waste in classrooms	Set a target to decrease classroom waste by 15% over the year	Ongoing Eco Lead	
Clear recycling systems in place: clear expectations on what can be recycled. Separate recycling bins, clearly labelled. Recycling separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources	Set up clearly labelled recycling bins in all key areas (classrooms, dining hall, and staff rooms)	Ongoing Site manager	
Take part in a switch-off campaign led by the Eco Team.	Implement a campaign encouraging "switch off" practices e.g Switch of fortnight .	Ongoing Eco Warriors	

Regular reminders to staff to switch off all lights, appliances, and plugs when not in use	Staff compliance tracked through periodic checks and energy audits. Aim to increase adherence by 80% within the year.	Ongoing Site manager Eco Warriors	
Heating controls to be used to limit timings and temperature across school	Room thermostats will be used to monitor temperatures throughout the day, with adjustments made as needed to ensure efficiency. Instruct all staff to follow heating efficiency practices e.g. turn heating down vs opening windows.	Ongoing Site manager	
Measure, record and publicize savings	Establish a baseline measure of energy use. Regularly publicize energy savings through school newsletters and displays.	September 2027 Office Team	
Complete the school census 'mode of travel' question to gather baseline data on how students and staff travel to school	Establish a baseline to measure future changes.	September 2026 Office Team	
Host a "Walk to School Week" to promote walking and raise awareness of the benefits of active travel	Organise a "Walk to School Week" with themed days, activities, and challenges to encourage walking.	September 2027 Eco Leads	
Introduce a school-wide campaign to reduce food packaging waste, encouraging reusable containers and packaging-free options	Launch a campaign encouraging students and staff to use reusable containers Regular Zero waste packed	Ongoing Eco Warriors	

	lunch challenge.		
Manage lunchtime to reduce queuing time and ensure all pupils have time to eat and play, reducing food waste due to insufficient eating time	Review and adjust lunchtime schedules. ensuring all students have at least 15 minutes to eat and 15 minutes to play. Measure food waste reduction and student satisfaction through surveys and waste audits.	Ongoing Eco Warriors	
School uniform exchange shop	Recycle pre-loved uniform to families.	Ongoing Children and Family Lead	
Include sustainability as part of your criteria for procurement e.g. made of recycled materials, non-toxic or ethically sourced.	Liaise with companies to ensure that ecologically sustainable products are bought wherever possible.	School Office	

BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

This area focuses on protecting, enhancing, and learning from the natural environment.

- **Improving green spaces and habitats on school sites**
- **Increasing access to nature for pupils**
- **Supporting outdoor learning and connection to the natural world**
- **Linking with initiatives such as the National Education Nature Park**

Action	Target	Timescale Responsibility	Impact and Evaluation
Plant trees and shrubs around the school grounds	Apply for free shrubs through the Woodland Trust website and plant them on field space	September 2027 Eco Leads Headteacher	
Build big bug hotel	Bug hotel to be built and used for outdoor learning sessions, children knowledge of biodiversity increased	Ongoing Eco Warriors	
Use Seek App to identify plants and flowers	Children's knowledge of biodiversity on our school grounds increased	September 2027 Eco Leads	
Map our school using National education Nature Park resource	School will be registered on the National Education Nature Park database and plan of how we can improve our school grounds implemented		
Employ litter pickers to keep school grounds free from rubbish	Reduce school rubbish. Keep Britain Tidy - Big Clean up campaign, weigh rubbish collected,	Ongoing Eco Warriors	

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE This area focuses on helping schools adapt to the impacts of climate change. • Ensuring buildings and grounds are resilient to extreme weather • Providing safe, accessible outdoor spaces in all seasons • Managing risks such as overheating, flooding, or poor air quality • Supporting pupil wellbeing and inclusion in a changing climate			
Action	Target	Timescale Responsibility	Impact and Evaluation
Monitor and record temperatures in classrooms and identify "cool" and "hot" areas of your buildings	Monitor temperatures in **all classrooms/teaching spaces** during warmer periods and identify the areas most prone to overheating or being too cool.		
Complete a water use audit; inspect water fixtures, check for drips and leaks, measure flow rates	Complete a **whole-school water audit**, including all taps, toilets and other water fixtures; identify and rectify leaks/drips and investigate opportunities to reduce unnecessary water use.		
Use the map climatejust.org.uk resources to investigate flooding and heat risk to your setting and local area.	Use Climate Just to assess the school's **local heat and flood vulnerability**, including the surrounding community, and record the key risks identified.		
Contact Climate Ambassadors	Climate Ambassadors offer free expertise with volunteer climate ambassadors from a broad		

	range of jobs and backgrounds to help deliver meaningful change on sustainability and climate change within the education system. Contact the North West regional hub, based at Manchester Metropolitan University, at climateambassadors_nw@mmu.ac.uk		
Update Health and Safety policy to include procedure for severe weather events, e.g. heat wave	Update the **Health and Safety policy** to include clear procedures for heatwaves and other severe weather, including communication, hydration, outdoor activities, ventilation and arrangements for vulnerable pupils and staff.		
Provide shaded areas for pupils to learn and play outside. Provide shading for the school buildings	Provide or improve **shaded areas** for pupils to learn and play outdoors and assess opportunities to provide shading for school buildings to reduce overheating.		
Survey climate anxiety and create a climate anxiety management strategy, including CPD.	Complete a **survey of pupils and/or staff** to understand concerns about climate change and use the findings to develop a climate anxiety/wellbeing management strategy.		