

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan



Plan developed by Mrs Rankin (Sustainability and Climate Lead): June 2025

Plan approved by Governors: September 2025

Ghona Taylor

Chair of Governors

Mr M Grogan

Headteacher

Plan shared with staff and shared on the school website: September 2025

'Never settle for less than your best'

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SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Our school motto

Never settle for less than your best.

Our Vision

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, each member of our community will flourish as resilient, respectful and adaptable individuals prepared for life's journey. Along the way we will encourage and inspire each other to continue growing as beacons of light in our own lives and the wider world.

Our Mission Statement

St. George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part.

Introduction

St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery is committed to promoting a sustainable future for our pupils, community, and planet. This strategy sets out our commitment to embedding environmental responsibility into all aspects of school life – from our curriculum to how we manage our buildings, grounds, and resources.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Reduce the school's environmental impact
- Educate and empower pupils to make sustainable choices
- Engage staff, pupils, families, and the wider community in sustainability
- Promote biodiversity and healthy, natural environments
- Meet or exceed regulatory requirements, including those related to carbon reduction and the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
- Outline the actions to be taken to fulfil our obligations

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- UK's 2050 net zero carbon target and de-carbonisation plan
- The Department for Education's strategy for sustainability and climate change for the education and children's services systems
- The UK Climate change Act 2008
- The Environment Act 2021
- The DEFRA Environmental Improvement Plan 2023
- The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting 2023

This policy will be implemented in accordance with the following school policies and procedures:

- Health & Safety Policy
- School Uniform Policy
- Learning Environment Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, '**sustainability**' is defined as the long term maintenance and enhancement of human well-being within finite planetary resources. It is usually considered to have environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

For the purpose of this policy '**climate change**' is defined as the long-term shift in average weather patterns and temperatures across the world.

For the purpose of this policy '**sustainability lead**' is defined as the person who will own and implement Climate Action Plans, facilitating local action and building capacity to protect learners and staff from the effects of climate change the long-term shift in average weather patterns and temperatures across the world.

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Community and Partnerships

This plan will be implemented and shared with:

- Parents/carers and the local community through newsletters and social media
- Local businesses and environmental groups
- Local schools in the area when successes are achieved to inspire collective action

Monitoring and Review

This plan will be regularly reviewed by the School Sustainability Lead in conjunction with the Headteacher. Any changes made to this plan will be communicated to all staff members.

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Action Plan				
Aim 1: Decarbonisation				
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Travel and Transport	Develop understanding of travel impact	Perform a travel survey	Autumn Term 2025	
	Reduce air pollution from transport linked to school	Encourage walking to school	Autumn Term 2025	
		Encourage combination of public transport and walking	Autumn Term 2025	
		Reduce the number of staff and pupils travelling to school by car (most notably in single occupancy vehicles)	Autumn Term 2025	
		Investigate bike/scooter storage to encourage active travel	Autumn Term 2025	
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Energy Use	Reduce carbon emissions from energy consumption	Energy review	Summer Term 2026	
		Investigate potential to switch to renewable energy tariffs	Spring Term 2026	
		Understand the types of emissions (Scopes) that contribute to the carbon footprint	Summer Term 2026	
		Building Survey	Summer Term 2026	
		Heating system audit to check running efficiently and correctly	Summer Term 2026	
		Investigate reducing energy consumption by removing gas boiler and replacing with air source heat pump	Summer Term 2027	
		Investigate installing solar panels on the roof to increase use of renewable energy and reduce energy bills	Summer Term 2026	
		Assess building for draughts and leaks to reduce heating demand	Summer Term 2026	
		Install reflector panels behind radiators	Summer Term 2026	

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		Encourage 'people out lights out' in all rooms	Autumn Term 2025	
		Encourage monitors and interactive screens off when not in use	Autumn Term 2025	
		Label large banks of switches	Autumn Term 2025	
		Investigate the cost of motion sensor lighting and install where appropriate	Spring Term 2026	
		Review light bulbs used with a view to choose energy efficient LED if not already installed	Autumn Term 2025	
		Encourage blinds up policy whenever possible	Ongoing	
		Maximise daylight by removing any window obstructions	Autumn Term 2025	
		Maximise daylight regularly cleaning all windows, skylights, transparent doors and lights	Autumn Term 2025	
		Review temperature setting of ICT suite	Autumn Term 2025	
	Reduce carbon emissions by adapting teaching and learning practices	Audit printing and paper usage	Autumn Term 2025	
		Reduce unnecessary printing – print number required and extras only when required	Autumn Term 2025	
		Purchase recycled paper for printers and FSC paper for the limited number of external publications	Spring Term 2026	
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Waste	Reduce amount of waste going to landfill	Compel contractors (as part of a tendering prequalification process) to report accurately on their waste management processes during the construction process	Ongoing	
		Work to eliminate the amount of non-hazardous construction waste that is sent to landfill	Ongoing	
		Audit classroom display policy and lesson resource use	Autumn Term 2025	

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	Promote recycling to achieve year on year increases and	Increase the visibility of re-cycling facilities around the site	Autumn Term 2025	
		Educate users about the importance of waste segregation	Autumn Term 2025	
		Work towards the total elimination of single use plastics	Summer Term 2026	
		Implement recycling of pens used in school	Spring Term 2026	
		Encourage swap shops to recycle uniform	Spring Term 2026	
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Catering and Food Waste	Reduce food and drink associated waste	Conduct a food waste audit	Autumn Term 2025	
		Recycle bread bags at Aldi	Autumn Term 2025	
		Assess high food waste alternatives	Spring Term 2026	
		Compost food waste – reinstate council collection and rectify bin lorry access issues	Spring Term 2026	
		Increase recycling of milk waste	Spring Term 2026	
		Reduce litter in outdoor environments from milk consumption at break times	Autumn Term 2025	
		Re-useable drinks bottles used	Ongoing	
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Procurement	Reduce school supply chain impact	To develop, over time, a better understanding of the environmental impact of suppliers and to endeavour to continually improve it through considered selection	Ongoing	
		Ensure all budget holders are aware of the importance of sustainability and include a reference to it in the financial policy	Autumn Term 2025	
		Develop a Supplier Sustainability Risk Assessment (RA) that identifies suppliers most likely to create a large carbon footprint	Summer Term 2026	

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Aim 2: Biodiversity

Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Outdoor spaces	Improve biodiversity net gain (BNG)	Engage with the National Education Nature Park	Ongoing	
		Enhance the area of meadow (non-pitch) grassland	Spring Term 2026	
		Increase plant diversity on grass that is not used as pitches	Summer Term 2026	
		Increase the number of trees and plants on the site	Summer Term 2027	
		Care should be taken to ensure where possible that native species (of local provenance) are used so as to prevent establishment or encroachment of non-native species into the surrounding area	Ongoing	
		Remove any invasive plants	Summer Term 2026	

Aim 3: Education and Skills

Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Climate Education	Outdoor education	Continue to enable pupils to play an active role in the development and management of green spaces - Eco-Club	Ongoing	
		Ensure teaching staff make use of the outdoor classrooms and forest school	Ongoing	
		Educate the School community about key environmental issues and the climate crisis	Ongoing	
	Curriculum audit	Identify opportunities to embed and deliver environmental sustainability education.	Ongoing	
	Understand climate anxiety in school	Audit climate anxiety in school	Summer Term 2026	
	Environmental job prospects	Include careers information on green roles	Ongoing	
		Invite in external speakers to run workshops and talks	Ongoing	

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Aim 4: Climate Adaptation

Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Water Use	Reduce volume of water used by school	Complete water audit to understand use of water across school.	Summer Term 2026	
		Install smart water meters where possible, to facilitate monitoring of water usage and reduction from baseline once established	Summer Term 2027	
		Introduce low water planting in garden areas	Summer Term 2026	
		Audit food waste disposal methods to limit water use	Spring Term 2026	
		Attend to leaks in water infrastructure promptly	Ongoing	
		Investigate rainwater/grey water harvesting options for future projects	Summer Term 2026	
		Install water efficient features when undertaking renovations, e.g. dual flushing toilets, low flow taps	Summer Term 2026	
Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Climate Risks	Understand how the estate is susceptible to climate change	Audit temperatures around school over an annual period.	Summer Term 2027	
		Install heat sensors to monitor levels		
		Audit flood risk – linked to drainage following climatic events	Summer Term 2027	
		Develop emergency response plan to mitigate risk for vulnerable staff and students, including those with preexisting health vulnerabilities and social vulnerabilities	Summer Term 2027	
		Develop a policy in place for adjusting hours during periods of extreme weather	Summer Term 2027	
		Increase areas of shading for children during break times to allow for the physical impacts of overheating from climate change, e.g. installing sail shading.	Summer Term 2026	
	Uniform	Clarify uniform requirements, particularly in periods of climatic extreme. School fleeces in periods of cold weather and relaxing dress code in periods of hot weather, e.g. encouraging pupils to wear loose, light-coloured cotton clothing. Teachers should also encourage children to take off their jumpers	Autumn Term 2025	
	Health & Safety	Clarify that sunhats and sunscreen should be worn by all children once a particular UV rating is reached	Autumn Term 2025	

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Area	Target	Action	Timeline	Progress towards objective
Leadership awareness of climate risks	Increase SLT and governor's awareness of climate risks and adaptation planning	Hold training session to discuss hopes and options for school	Ongoing	

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