



Greenfields Primary School

Sustainability Action Plan

2025-2028

Intent

As a school committed to nurturing the environmental and social conscience of our pupils, our Sustainability Action Plan seeks to foster a culture of sustainability within our primary community. Our school is situated on five acres of verdant grounds, comprising expansive grass areas and rich woodland, providing an excellent opportunity to integrate outdoor learning with sustainable practices. Our plan aligns with the UK's national educational standards while fulfilling our commitment to the National Education Nature Park and our designation as a Bee Friendly School. The implementation of forestry principles through our Forest School programme, offered to all children, along with the establishment of a Forest School Club, will play a pivotal role in promoting environmental stewardship among our students.

The focus areas of our Sustainability Action Plan will encompass Decarbonisation, Biodiversity, Waste Consumption, Climate Education, and Future Roles. By incorporating scientific principles and research-backed strategies, we will work towards creating a greener school environment, ensuring that our pupils not only understand the importance of sustainability but actively engage in practices that will benefit the local and global community.

Implementation

Decarbonisation

~~To reduce energy consumption, our school will undertake several actions based on scientific studies indicating various pathways to decarbonisation. Implementing energy-efficient measures, such as retrofitting our school with LED lighting and energy-efficient appliances, can reduce energy usage by up to 75% (Energy Saving Trust, 2021). Additionally, we will follow all paths we can to integrate solar panels into our school's infrastructure to harness renewable energy in line with the 2050 net-zero target set by the UK government.~~

We have already taken significant steps towards energy efficiency in the school's main building as follows:

- Replacement of fluorescent lighting with LED
- Installation of double-glazed external windows and doors

- Installation of modern condensing gas boilers, heat emitters, heating controls and pipework insulation
- External insulation of the roof to the latest standards

These measures have resulted in a significant improvement in our energy consumption, for both gas and electricity, and in our DEC rating.

Our journey towards net zero carbon continues with the intention to install relatively small solar panel arrays, for which we have potential options for both roof-mounted and ground-mounted designs. At the moment we are exploring how these options could be financed and how they can gain the appropriate consents for the county council, the district council and Historic England (the school main building being grade II listed).

In the longer term, we expect the school to become all-electric with installation of heat pumps and removal of redundant gas-fired appliances. At this time there would be an opportunity to significantly expand the solar generation capacity.

Meanwhile, the focus on further energy efficiency rests with operational controls, as follows:

- We will encourage a culture of energy conservation among pupils through initiatives such as 'Switch Off Fortnight', where students and staff will be educated about the impacts of energy waste and empowered to take action. Not only will these approaches reduce our carbon footprint, but they will also serve as practical learning experiences for our students, linking to the national curriculum's Science Key Stage 2 objectives related to electricity and energy.
- All classes will have an Energy Monitor whose job it will be to ensure **electrical /** electronic devices are switched off when the class leave the room, and Window Wardens to ensure energy is not wasted in the winter months through open doors and windows.
- The School Council will monitor our monthly energy consumption and provide a quarterly report for the governing board, including recommendations for improvements, as appropriate.

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Biodiversity

Enhancing biodiversity within the school grounds will be a crucial component of our Sustainability Action Plan. By leveraging our existing woodland and grassland, we will institute a biodiversity audit to identify flora and fauna present, working closely with local wildlife experts to facilitate improvements. Actions such as nurturing our established trees, creating wildflower meadows on the front lawn, and installing bug hotels are evidence-based strategies that can significantly boost local biodiversity (Natural England, 2018).

We will also focus on becoming a Bee Friendly School by creating pollinator gardens that provide essential habitats for bees and other beneficial insects. This initiative is intrinsically linked to the national curriculum, as it will enhance students' understanding of ecosystems, interdependence, and the importance of conservation, particularly under the Science National Curriculum's Living Things and Their Habitats.

Waste Consumption

Minimising waste consumption is a key tenet of sustainability that we aim to address comprehensively. Our school will adopt a 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' ethos, and establish a robust waste management system. Educational resources will be created to inform pupils about the impact of waste on the environment and proper recycling procedures, which aligns with the curriculum's focus on materials and their properties. [Examples of waste minimization include soap dispensing and paper towel use in the classrooms.](#)

To reduce food waste, we will initiate school-wide lunch programmes that encourage the use of reusable containers and utensils, [avoiding single-use plastics](#). Additionally, our School Council will spearhead a campaign to promote litter picking on school grounds. Engaging students in practical tasks will cultivate a sense of responsibility and ownership toward their environment, and actively participating in projects will contribute to their social development, linking to the Personal, Social, Emotional Development aspect of the Early Years Framework.

Climate Education

Understanding climate change is essential for nurturing informed future citizens. To encompass climate education within our school, we propose a comprehensive curriculum integration approach across subjects. Science lessons will feature topics concerning the greenhouse effect and climate change, linking real-world applications to the curriculum content. When possible, we will hold biodiversity weeks and focus on the impact of our actions on the world. These will be led by texts which highlight the impact of man's actions on the planet, and inform the children how they can do 'their bit'.

Our Forest School programme will play a vital role in climate education, allowing students to explore their natural environment, understand the importance of ecosystems, and learn how human actions impact the earth's climate. Outdoor sessions will be enriched by nature-based activities that enhance environmental literacy, aligning with the Geography National Curriculum of understanding physical environments and human impact.

To further amplify our impact, we will seek to host workshops and assemblies led by climate experts and local environmental organisations, providing our students with direct insights into climate action initiatives.

Future Roles

Fostering a sustainable mindset extends beyond the classroom. We shall empower our School Council to engage students in active roles within the Sustainability Action Plan. Initiatives may include the development of a 'Green Team'—a selected group of students who lead weekly environmental activities and promote sustainable practices among peers.

The School Council also has a critical role in facilitating communication among students, staff, and the local community regarding sustainability initiatives. Furthermore, they will explore partnerships with the local council and community groups to enhance our green projects and create real-world impact.

In addition, we aim to introduce sustainability-focused extracurricular clubs, such as gardening, wildlife observation, and environmental art, providing students with opportunities

to express their creativity and commitment to sustainability through multidisciplinary approaches.

Impact

The anticipated impact of our Sustainability Action Plan will be multifaceted. Firstly, we expect a measurable reduction in energy consumption across school facilities, translating to lower operational costs and a significant decrease in our environmental footprint. Additionally, the enhancement of biodiversity on the school grounds will foster a richer educational ecosystem, allowing students to experience and observe nature in real-time.

Engaging pupils actively in climate education and the principles of waste management will instil lifelong skills and awareness necessary for combating climate change. By enabling students to participate in these initiatives, we empower them to become ambassadors of sustainability within their families and communities, thereby fostering a wider cultural shift towards environmentally sustainable practices.

Equipping students with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges will prepare them for future roles as responsible citizens. Our collaborations with local organisations and the pursuit of our eco-friendly identity will not only enhance educational outcomes but enable our school community to champion sustainability in a broader context.

Through the implementation of our Sustainability Action Plan, our primary school aims to lead by example, inspiring young minds to adopt a sustainable lifestyle and create a legacy of environmental stewardship that will resonate for generations to come.

Review of Impact and Updates

2025-26	
2026-27	
2027-28	

Signed:

Head Teacher:

Chair of Governors:



Date: 6.9.2025