Climate Action Plan 2025/2026

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Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

What do we believe?

As a Catholic school, we encourage our children to:

- Be responsible for themselves and others,
- Respect life in all its forms,
- Look for hope in difficult times or situations,
- Be courageous to stand up for what we believe in.
- Pray for forgiveness for the things that we have done wrong.
- Love one another and the world in which we live.

Therefore, our Sustainability Climate Action Plan for 2025 (and beyond) is bound by these core values as well as our common purpose to ensure all those within our School Community live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) through the promotion and protection of God's World.

In their policy paper *Sustainability and Climate Change: A Strategy for the Education and Children's Services Systems*, the Government set a target for all education settings to have a sustainability lead and a Climate Action Plan in place by 2025.

To align with DfE's *Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy*, a Climate Action Plan should cover at least the four areas:

- Decarbonisation
- Adaptation and resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers

For more ideas and support, visit:

Sustainability Support for Education

Climate Ambassadors

and join

National Education Nature Park

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Climate Action Plan

1.Establishing a Baseline

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
School	Calculate the school's carbon footprint and identify the main emission sources.	Use a detailed carbon footprint calculator to assess emissions.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Home - Count Your Carbon	
School	Understand your school's energy efficiency by conducting a review of energy use.	Review the Recommendation Report from your Display Energy Certificate (DEC) to understand the school's energy efficiency.		Headteacher,	Free	Energy efficiency: guidance for the school and further education college estate - GOV.UK	
School Where Applicable – Review flood risk map and remove if not required.	Assess the school's climate and pollution risks.	Review the flood risk map and check the air pollution levels around the school to identify the impact of pollution and adverse weather.		Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Flood map for planning - GOV.UK Home - Defra, UK	

School	Understand the biodiversity on the school's grounds.	Conduct a nature survey of the school's grounds.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Nature Survey | Education Nature Park	
School	Assess your curriculum and identify environmental links.	Conduct a curriculum audit and address opportunities to increase environmental knowledge.		Headteacher, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Our city, our world Conceptual milestones and key vocabulary Curriculum for a Changing Climate Home - Eco Schools	
School	Identify the means of transport used by students to travel to and from school.	Conduct the Active Travel audit to understand the opportunities for sustainable options.		Class teachers, Students	Free	Active Travel Audit	
School	Examine the amount of food waste from school dinners and its contribution to climate change.	Conduct the food waste audit to assess how much food waste is created by school dinners.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Find out exactly how much food your school is wasting | Energy Sparks	
School	Understand your waste.	Conduct a bin audit to identify how much and what type of		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team,	Free	How to do a plastic waste bin audit - Plastic Free July	

		waste the school produces.		Sustainability Lead.			

2.Decarbonisation

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
Trust / School	Reduce electricity consumption.	Install energy-efficient alternatives, e.g., LED lightbulbs and energy-efficient printers.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Trust Estates Team			
Trust	Increase the use of renewable energy.	Install solar panels.		Trust Estates Team	£££ / Grants and Funding - Solar for Schools UK		
Trust	Replace Gas heating with sustainable alternatives	Air Source Heat Pumps		Trust Estates Team	School Condition Allocation Funding		
School / Trust	Reduce heat loss and energy use.	Improve the wall insulation.		Trust Estates Team	£££ / Salix Finance - Salixfinance.co.uk		

School / Support from Trust	Reduce the energy use.	Schedule the heating to turn off thirty minutes before the school closes. Assign students to be 'Energy Monitors' to track and turn off unused devices and lights. Deliver some lessons outside.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Trust Estates Team	£££ / Available Grants for Schools to support Outdoor Education	Review school heating timings | Energy Sparks Appoint pupil energy monitors in all classes | Energy Sparks Free Outdoor Learning Resources and Useful Links - Teach Outdoors	

3.Adaptation and Resilience

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
School	Create emergency response plans to build resilience in schools.	Establish protocols for rapid recovery after climate events. Plan to mitigate risks for vulnerable staff and students, including those with pre-existing		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK Joint union heatwave protocol |	

		health conditions and social vulnerabilities. Develop Heatwave protocol.				National Education Union Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings – The Education Hub	
	Increase shaded areas across the playground and school site.	Plant trees and install fabric shade canopies. Involve the school community during the planting and maintenance stages.			£££ / Grant funding to support tree, hedgerow and orchard establishment		

4.Biodiversity

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
School	Enhance green spaces on the school site.	Plant wildflower and pollinator-friendly areas.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team,		A guide to greening your school / RHS Campaign for School Gardening	

		Plant native trees. Design a sensory garden for students to engage with nature through all their senses.		Sustainability Lead.		Seven simple ways to create a wildlife-friendly garden | Natural History Museum Plants for a sensory garden / RHS Campaign for School Gardening	
School	Invite wildlife to the school grounds.	Establish a dedicated area for wildlife, installing bird feeders and insect hotels. Consider provided water sources for wildlife		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	£££ Depends on a project	Encouraging wildlife in your school garden / RHS Campaign for School Gardening Wildlife Ponds Safety Guidance for Schools.pdf	
School	Connect students and staff with nature.	Provide opportunities for outdoor learning and increase the time students spend outside. Take part in Big Garden Birdwatch – a garden wildlife survey		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Outdoor Learning Resources For Schools - Woodland Trust Big Garden Birdwatch	

		organised by RSPB.					

5.Climate Education and Green Skills and Careers

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
Trust / School	Ensure key members of staff have up-to-date knowledge on climate change and sustainability.	Provide professional development on integrating sustainability into the curriculum for department leaders. Offer in-house professional development sessions to all staff members.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Estates Team	Free	Teaching for sustainable futures | IOE - Faculty of Education and Society	

School	Inspire students through education to learn about and take proactive steps in addressing environmental issues.	Invite organisations offering climate-focused workshops.			Free / £££	Climate Change Education | Climate Ed | UK	
Schools	Introduce students to Green Careers opportunities.	Invite speakers from the companies to present opportunities in the environmental sector. Offer mock interviews for your students where applicable.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free / £££	Inspiring Careers | Green Up Your Act Workshops for Schools	
	Enhance students' understanding of climate change by implementing a student-led climate project.	Encourage students to take ownership of the project, support them throughout, and recognize their achievements.					

6.Sustainable / Active Travel

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
	Encourage school staff and students to opt for sustainable and more active modes of transportation.	Join accreditation programs such as Modeshift STARS to receive guidance and celebrate the achievements.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	Free	Education - Modeshift STARS	
	Develop infrastructure around the school to encourage students and staff to choose active travel.	Provide/improve lockable, roofed bike sheds for both students and staff. Designate the path for students using bikes to ensure safety on the school grounds.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.	£££	Resources for your active travel school plan - Sustrans.org.uk	
	Develop students' confidence on the roads.	Provide cycling and pedestrian training for all students.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team,	Free	Cycle Training for Everyone - Deliver Safer Training | Bikeability	

				Sustainability Lead. Teachers .			

7.Food

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:
	Encourage plant-based meals to reduce meat consumption.	Introduce a meat-free day, at least once a week. Educate students and staff members about the benefits of reducing meat consumption and increasing the number of plant-based foods in your diet.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider	Free	Educators - Meat Free Monday	

	Reduce food waste by composting food scraps at school. Use compost in gardening projects.	Obtain compost bins to store compost outside of the school. Tech students about composting.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider	Free / £££		
	Lower your carbon footprint by using vegetables grown at your school.	Run the gardening club and create the vegetable garden on the school's grounds. Design a vegetable plot for each class. Use the products in preparation of school meals.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.		RHS Funding Digital Final.pdf RUNNING A SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB How to Set up a School Garden	

8.Waste and Consumption

Responsibility	Action	Steps	Expected completion date	Who will make it happen?	Cost / available funding	Tools and resources	Action completed on:

	Empower recycling opportunities in the school.	Take part in The Green School Project to set up a recycling hub at your school, increase recycling in the area and raise funds for your school. Ensure that all classrooms have a recycling bin.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider	Free / paid	The Green School Project · TerraCycle	
	Increase the school's knowledge of waste, consumption and recycling by running a campaign at school to: - remove single-use plastics - promote recycling, repairing, reusing, and	Replace plastic cutlery with reusable alternatives. Obtain school-branded water bottles and ensure access to fresh drinking water by providing drinking fountains for refills.		Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider	Free/ paid	Plastic Free July – Be Part of the Plastic Pollution Solution Circular Economy Guide 2025 | Waste Managed	

	reducing waste						
	Promote sustainability by organising an event to exchange second-hand uniforms.	Organise a uniform exchange and sale event at school for second-hand uniforms.		Headteacher, Sustainability Lead.	Free	How To Set Up A School Uniform Swap Shop - Climate Education	
	Make sure to minimise the school's contribution to waste production.	Review the school's procurement policy and incorporate sustainability into purchasing processes.		SLT, Finance and Operations, Site team	Free	Factoring sustainability into procurement processes	