

Western Downland CE VA Primary School

Climate action plan 2025-26

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. Schools play a vital role in educating pupils about sustainability and empowering them to take meaningful action. This Climate Action Plan outlines our school's strategies to reduce carbon emissions, increase environmental awareness, and create a culture of sustainability within our community.

Goal: Decarbonisation			
Steps undertaken	Appliances replaced with energy-efficient appliances.	Promote safe and sustainable modes of travel—such as walking, cycling, and scooting—to help reduce carbon emissions and support healthier communities	Reduce paper use: Move to digital.
	Plant trees and gardens on site to absorb CO ₂ Encourage outdoor learning spaces that also serve as green areas.		
Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Reduce buildings carbon emissions by replacing existing fluorescent lights to LED	Install LED smart lighting at the Junior site to lower energy consumption and reduce replacement costs.	Autumn Term	Cost: £3,500 (10% of total cost)
Review the schools display energy certificate (DEC) to understand the buildings energy performance and make changes to energy usage to improve rating.	Assess the building's energy performance and implement changes to energy usage.	Autumn Term	Staff: Site Manager Cost: Free

<p>Reduce buildings carbon emissions by understanding gas usage and optimising zonal temperatures and timings to eliminate unnecessary usage.</p>	<p>Analyse gas usage and optimised zonal temperatures and heating schedules.</p>	<p>Autumn Term</p>	<p>Staff: Site Manager Cost: Free</p>
<p>Reduce buildings carbon emissions by understanding electricity demand and times of use required.</p>	<p>Assess electricity demand and usage patterns, adjusting times of use to match actual requirements.</p>	<p>Autumn Term</p>	<p>Staff: Site Manager Cost: Free</p>
<p>Assess buildings for draughts and leaks to reduce heating demand.</p>	<p>Assess building for areas of heat loss. Make small changes to help prevent heat loss e.g. draft excluders. Use energy saving trust for more tips.</p>	<p>Autumn Term</p>	<p>Staff: Site Manager Cost: Free</p>

Goal: Biodiversity			
Steps undertaken	Fill planters with wildlife supporting plants	School allotment/garden for growing food	Install bird feeders and nesting boxes
	Compost bins: Support decomposers like worms and fungi while reducing waste.	Build an outdoor classroom: use nature as a teaching tool.	Participate in biodiversity surveys like bird counts.
	Eco clubs or gardening groups: Encourage pupil-led initiatives.		
Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Increase biodiversity on school property	Build hedgehog houses and bug hotels.	Spring Term	Staff: Site Manager/Forest School Lead Cost: Low
Make greater use of the outdoor classroom.	Use nature as a teaching tool.	Spring Term	Staff: Teaching staff Cost: Free
Make greater use of the school allotment	Seek volunteers from the community to support planting and maintenance	Spring Term	Staff: Gardening Club Lead Cost: Free

Goal: Climate education and green careers

<p>Steps undertaken</p>	<p>Include climate change in science, geography, economics, and even literature. Use real-world case studies and local environmental issues to make learning relevant.</p>	<p>Create school gardens to teach ecological principles.</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Steps</p>	<p>Timeline for the action or expected completion date</p>	<p>Resources</p>
<p>Review climate change content within curriculum</p>	<p>Review curriculum to understand where climate change/ careers features/ could feature.</p>	<p>Autumn & Spring Term</p>	<p>Staff: HT/Eco Lead Cost: Free</p>
<p>Change behaviours in our communities by running a 'Switch-off' campaign.</p>	<p>Encourage students and staff to turn off lights and monitors. Provide information to parents/carers in weekly newsletter.</p>	<p>Spring Term</p>	<p>Staff: HT/Eco Lead Cost: Free</p>
<p>Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by inviting external speakers to come into school.</p>	<p>Host talks or workshops with climate scientists, conservationists, or local green entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>Termly</p>	<p>Staff: HT/Eco Lead Cost: Free</p>

Goal: Resilience and adaptation			
Steps undertaken	Adverse weather procedures e.g. extreme heat	Water saving devices such as compact toilet cisterns, non-concussive taps, motion sensor urinal flush units installed.	Installed sustainable drainage systems
	Installed rainwater harvesting systems (outdoor classroom at the infant site)		
Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Install sustainable drainage system	Install treatment plant at the infant site.	Autumn Term 2026	Staff: HT Cost: £12,000
Prepare our schools for the physical impacts of overheating from climate change by installing ventilation and cooling.	Choose an option for type of ventilation and cooling Train staff on how to use and maintain.	Spring Term	Staff: Site Manager Cost: Varied depending on chosen scheme
Prepare our schools for the physical impacts of overheating from climate change by installing sail shading.	. Install sail shading. Encourage pupils to use during periods of hot weather.	Summer Term	Staff: HT/Site Manager Cost: Unknown

Goal: Active and sustainable travel

Steps undertaken	Awarded Outstanding Travel Plan Accreditation promoting active, safe, and sustainable travel—such as walking, cycling, and scooting.		
Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Continue to meet Junior Road Safety Officers and promote active, safe and sustainable travel.	Termly meetings	Termly	Staff: HT Cost: Low

Goal: Waste, consumption and recycling

Steps undertaken	Reduce waste by encouraging reusable plastic water bottles.	Encourage reuse by running second-hand uniform events.	Encourage reuse by hosting swap events.
	Promote digital homework, newsletters, and notices.	Encourage donations and reuse rather than disposal.	Teach about waste, recycling, and sustainability in science, geography, and citizenship lessons.
Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Eliminate single-use plastics in the canteen and school events.	Eliminate single-use plastics in the canteen and school events.	Summer Term	Staff: HT Cost: Free
Choose recycled, biodegradable, or sustainably sourced school supplies. Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste.	Choose recycled, biodegradable, or sustainably sourced school supplies. Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste.	Summer Term	Staff: Admin Cost: Low