

# Climate Action Plan



The DfE's guidance '[Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education](#)' has highlighted the importance of adopting a whole-school approach to turn planning into action. In its [sustainability and climate change strategy](#), the DfE stated that it expects all schools to have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan by 2025.

A climate action plan should cover the following four areas and be aligned with the DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy:

- Decarbonisation, e.g. calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions
- Adaptation and resilience, e.g. taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating
- Biodiversity, e.g. engaging with the [National Education Nature Park and enrolling in the Climate Action Award](#)
- Climate education and green careers, e.g. ensuring that education gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change and that teachers feel supported to offer this.

## Climate Action Plan

<b>Name of school</b>	<b>Wirksworth Junior School</b>
<b>Sustainability lead name</b>	<b>Isabel Webb</b>
<b>Date of last review</b>	<b>February 2026</b>

<b>Area of action</b>	<b>In place?</b>	<b>Date checked</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Individuals involved</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
<b>Organising the sustainability leadership team structure</b>					
Has a sustainability leadership team been structured?	Yes	12.02.2026		Shannon Boam Isabel Webb	During maternity leave this will be the person in post.
Has a single sustainability lead been nominated?	Yes	12.02.2026		Headteacher Isabel Webb	



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Are members of the sustainability leadership team clear on their duties?	Yes	12.02.2026	Discuss the action plan with the School Business Officer and is shared at the T and L Governors meeting in March 2026	Isabel Webb	
Does the sustainability leadership team consist of both teaching and operational staff?	Yes	12.02.2026		Shannon Boam Isabel Webb	During maternity leave this will be the person in post.
Does the sustainability leadership team include senior leaders?	Yes	12.02.2026		School Business Officer, Shannon Boam and Headteacher Isabel Webb	During maternity leave this will be the person in post.

**Implementing a whole-school approach**



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Is the whole school involved and engaged in turning the school's climate plan into action?	Yes	12.02.2026		All teachers and teaching assistants	School Council are part of the drive to reduce plastic waste which is shared with each class.
Does the curriculum increase pupils' practical knowledge of sustainability and climate change?	Yes	12.02.2026		Teachers and teaching assistants	Sustainability is one of our core concepts in our bespoke curriculum. Climate Change is discussed in the Y6 curriculum and through the big questions-
Are measures in place to give pupils a sense of agency where anxiety stems from climate concerns?	Yes	24.02.2026		Children Teacher	Planted trees in the local area on 13.02.2026. Gardening club. Paper-bag challenge. School council ask the children what they would like to do to improve/ respect their environment.

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Does the curriculum enable pupils to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the local community?	Yes	24.02.2026	Get composting started in school.	IW and the gardener-Toby.	Gardener Marion comes into school. Putting posters up in the community to reduce plastic waste. Litter picking in the summer term. Sending letters to the local MP.
Are parents and the wider community involved in the school's approach to sustainability and climate change?	Yes and No	24.02.2026	Discuss how we can get the parents and the community more involved with sustainability in school.	IW	The school shares what we do in school through Class Dojo but we do not have them actively involved.
Do <b>governors</b> and members of the SLT support and drive the school's sustainable activity?	SLT - Yes	24.02.2026	Share the Climate Plan with governors, nominate someone to monitor this each year and actions towards this.	Governors IW	Isabel leads school council.

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Is the SLT embedding culture change where sustainability is a priority?	Partly	24.02.2026	Share the climate change action plan so all staff are aware of the culture to develop sustainability.	All staff IW	
Does climate change and sustainability feature on the agenda at key meetings?	No	24.02.2026	Include Sustainability in the resources committee meetings	Governors IW	
Has the Gardener been involved in the school's Climate Action Plan?	No	24.02.2026	Isabel to share the vision with the gardener and get the compost and water butts in place to use.		Gardener not been involved as new in post, but is working on developing the composting and deadheading in the school grounds.
<b>Climate education</b>					
Is climate education embedded throughout the curriculum?	Yes				
Are pupils eager to create a greener, sustainable world and	Yes	24.02.22026			This is seen when the children discuss the changes they



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tackle the causes and impact of climate change?					want to do in school council every September.
Are pupils empowered to become global citizens through a better understanding of climate change and a greater connection to nature.	Yes	24.02.2026			This is seen when the children discuss the changes they want to do in school council every September. All children take part in Forest Schools and work on the areas of learning to SEMH as well as connections with nature. These are assessed at the end of each unit of work.
Are pupils provided with practical opportunities to participate in activities that increase climate resilience, reduce carbon impact and enhance biodiversity?	Yes	24.02.2026			School council Planting trees Gardening Forest Schools Geography education Whole school challenges- paper bag challenge,

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					designing art from plastic waste.
Do pupils learn about nature, the causes and impacts of climate change and the importance of sustainability?	Yes	24.02.2026			Though the Geography and DT curriculum big question-
Are teachers able to access CPD to ensure pupils receive high-quality teaching on scientific facts about climate change and environmental degradation?	No	24.02.2026	Research where staff can get training to sign post or have a staff meeting on this.	Isabel Webb	
Do staff members make use of best practice advice which demonstrates how sustainability and climate change should be incorporated into teaching in an age-appropriate manner?	No	24.02.2026	Look at the links and see if this could be included in the curriculum review.	Isabel Webb Teachers	

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Are relevant teaching resources from governmental departments utilised? e.g. from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and the Environment Agency?	No	24.02.2026	Look at the links and see if this could be included in the curriculum review.	Isabel Webb	
Are teachers able to model sustainable practices in relation to their subject specialism?	Not sure	24.02.2026	Discuss with staff about their expertise and if they require training	Teachers	
Are all staff members able to build their understanding of climate change and sustainability by receiving shared literacy training through sustainability leads?	No	24.02.2026	Research where staff can get training to sign post or have a staff meeting on this.	Isabel Webb	
Does the school offer extra curricula activities such as eco clubs or vegetable growing?	Yes	20.02.2026		Headteacher	Gardening Club

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Are pupils given the opportunity to learn about sustainable food choices, recycling, adaptation projects or weather and energy monitoring?	Partly	24.02.2026	Review the curriculum to see if we can include more energy monitoring	Isabel Webb	
Are pupils given opportunities to learn outdoors?	Yes	20.02.2026			Forest Schools Engagement Model
Are leaders, teachers and pupils able to learn about energy efficiency, the circular economy, climate resilience and green careers?	Partly	24.02.2026	Review the curriculum to see if we can include green careers and climate resilience.	Teachers	
Does the school avoid presenting misinformation or unsubstantiated claims relating to the climate?	Yes	20.02.2026			
<b>Green skills and careers</b>					
Are pupils able to build green skills that will enable them to build	Yes	24.02.2026			Forest Schools



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careers and participate in the green industrial revolution?					School Council action plans to show respect for our environment.
Does the school provide assembly information and interactive class exercises which enable pupils to see and learn about a wide range of green careers and skills in action?	No	24.02.2026	Looking at bringing in people to talk about green careers	IW	
<b>Education estate and digital infrastructure</b>					
Are buildings within the school energy efficient?	No				We are in a school that is over 125 years old and is listed.
Does the school utilise smart meters and energy management systems to reduce usage and bills?	Yes	Ongoing by the SBO			These readings are reflected on to discuss when we over or under spend and the reasons why. Shared with Governors at the resources committee and benchmarking to other schools.

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					We turned off the heating in top block to reduce the gas bill.
Has the school implemented measures to alleviate poor air quality around the school premises?	Yes	20.02.2026	Caretaker to monitor these and open windows if the air quality is poor in the classrooms.	Caretaker	School has the carbon dioxide monitors to measure the air quality to know if you open windows.
Has the school been able to access the <a href="#">Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme</a> to support decarbonising the estate?	No	24.02.2026	Look at what this is and if it can support the school	SBO	
Does the school make use of best practice advice when investing money to reduce carbon emissions?	N/A	24.02.2026			
Does the school have regard to the <a href="#">'Good Estate Management for Schools'</a> guidance when making decisions regarding sustainable management of the estate,	No	24.02.2026	Look at what this is and if it can support the school	SBO	

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including energy and water efficiency, addressing ventilation and dealing with leaks?					
Does the school have contingency plans in place in the event of adverse conditions such as increased heat, flood risk or water scarcity?	Yes	24.02.2026			We have a Critical Incident plan. With have Remote Learning policy which we use during snow days.
Does the school make use of any opportunities and advice to improve biodiversity, flood resilience and air quality?	No	24.02.2026	SBO to look into this and any actions we could take.	SBO	
Has the school conducted a survey of how resilient existing buildings are and how their environmental conditions can be improved, including their access to nature?	No	24.02.2026	SBO to look into this and any actions we could take.	SBO	
Has the school looked at ways in which to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution, e.g. expanding anti-	Yes	24.02.2026			We remind parents to park away from the school and not

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idling zones to reduce the impact of the school commute?					to have their car idling on the road to improve air quality.
Has the school looked at delivering initiatives to increase active and safe travel to school, e.g. walking and cycling?	Yes	24.02.2026	Survey parents/children to see how many children walk, cycle or drive to school and if this needs actions completed.	SBO	We share the walk to school resources every November.
Does the school take steps to protect and enhance wildlife and ecosystems in and around the school grounds?	Yes	20.02.2026			October 2025 Dead hedging put in to reuse our garden waste to encourage a hedge and habitats for animals.
Has the school considered heating solutions which do not utilise carbon intense fuels?	No	24.02.2026	SBO to look into this and any actions we could take.	SBO	Currently we do not have the funding to upgrade our heating systems.
Has the school signed up to available weather and flood warnings?	Yes	20.02.2026			Met office alerts to the headteacher's email address once a week.
Has the school looked at how it can reduce water usage and improve efficiency?	Yes	24.02.2026			We had a water survey completed and they could not

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					identify any ways to reduce our water waste. Severn Trent.
<b>Operations and supply chains</b>					
Does the school procure from companies that commit to achieving net zero by 2050 and have a plan in place which shows how they will meet this target?	Don't know	24.02.2026	SBO to start monitoring this.	SBO	We have never monitored this.
Does the school buy from procurement frameworks that offer sustainable goods and services?	Don't know	24.02.2026	SBO to start monitoring this.	SBO	We have never monitored this.
Does the school provide nutritionally balanced, affordable and sustainable meal choices?	Yes	20.02.2026		SBO	We use DCC catering.
Is there a whole-school approach to food which promotes accountability and transparency of school food arrangements?	Don't know	24.02.2026	SBO to start monitoring this.	SBO	We have never monitored this.

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Is consideration given to sustainable practice in relation to school food contracts, preparation and practice, with thought given to ingredients and their environmental impact?	Yes	20.02.2026		SBO	We use DCC catering.
Does the school gather data and take action on food waste whilst making use of best practice advice for sustainable waste prevention and management?	No	20.02.26	Talk to the kitchen and understand if they are collecting any data on this.	SBO	
Has the school moved away from single-use items and towards reusable alternatives where possible?	Yes	20.02.26			Children have this as a focus in school council. Paper bag challenge. Art made with recycled material. Catering staff using reusable plastic.

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Does the school reduce reliance on single-use items in favour of alternatives, e.g. secondhand uniforms?	Yes	20.06.2026			We offer uniform to be exchanged at the school and give out donations.
Are any free period products provided to pupils sustainable?	Don't know	24.02.2026	SBO to start monitoring this.	SBO	We have never monitored this.
Is food sourced locally possible?	Don't know	24.02.2026	SBO to check with the kitchen.	SBO	We have never monitored this.
Has the school invested in renewable and sustainable energy sources, e.g. solar panels and LED lightbulbs?	No	24.02.2026	SBO to see if we can start purchasing LED lightbulbs.	SBO	
Does the school have arrangements in place for the correct recycling of glass, paper, card, plastic, metal and food waste?	Yes	24.02.2026			We use Peak Waste.

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Has the school taken measures to reduce its use of paper?	No	24.02.2026	Share climate commitment with staff and discuss how we can reduce our paper waste.	IW	Paper bag challenge

### Summary of findings and actions

#### Actions needed

- **February 2026- 27 actions out of 61 areas**
- Bring the plan to Resources meeting annually to review the actions
- Share the plan more widely- parents and staff.
- Ask the maternity lead – SBO to take a lead on this.

