



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Climate Action Plan

January 2026

Annually reviewed

Aims and values

At St Mary's, we are dedicated to teaching pupils about environmental responsibility and equipping them for a future shaped by climate change. Our objective is to cultivate environmentally conscious attitudes and ensure the schools operate as sustainably as possible through practical and measurable actions. Through Catholic Social Teaching and Stewardship, we aim to educate and make children aware of the need to protect the planet.

We aim to minimise paper consumption by encouraging digital alternatives, compost food waste, and promote effective recycling with clear guidance and accessible facilities.

Designated eating areas and well-placed bins will help reduce littering and maintain clean surroundings.

We will encourage walking and cycling over driving by providing secure bike storage and delivering road safety education, alongside incentives for using eco-friendly transport.

Energy use will be carefully monitored and reduced through solutions such as ensuring appliances and lights are turned off when not needed, optimising heating systems, insulating pipes, and swiftly addressing inefficiencies.

We will promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles by educating pupils about food sources through our Science, PSHE and DT curriculums. We will promote local health initiatives.

To cut carbon emissions, we will explore renewable energy options, favour local suppliers to reduce transport-related emissions, and promote sustainable travel through reward schemes and awareness initiatives.

Procurement will prioritise local and sustainable products, ensuring that purchasing is efficient and environmentally responsible.

Environmental education will be integrated into the curriculum across all subjects and information will be clearly displayed around the school to inspire and encourage sustainable behaviours.

Roles and responsibilities

Headteachers/Head of School

- Make sure staff CPD plans cover sustainability, e.g. including climate change and sustainability in science teachers' CPD, and providing sustainable usage training for all staff
- Work with premises and school business staff to look at where to invest money to reduce carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and resilience
- Develop and deliver our school's climate action plan by 2027
- Communicate the sustainability policy to the school community
- Participate in World awareness days
- Create outdoor learning environments
- Regularly review the curriculum through a sustainability lens

Teachers and subject leads

- *Carry out a sustainability audit for their subject*, identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world, sustainable practices and the circular economy
- Identify ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects, e.g. reducing printing
- Incorporate Forest School and outdoor education into their curriculum area
- Consider sustainability when planning trips or extra-curricular activities
- Link sustainability to Catholic social teaching values such as stewardship at all opportunities
- Promote and raise awareness of green skills and careers

Caretaker and site staff

- Keep the school site clean and safe for effective outdoor learning.
- Make sure all lights, taps, and unnecessary appliances are switched off at the end of each day

Environmental classroom

- Teachers will commit to providing outdoor learning opportunities across the curriculum
- The school will apply for Government grants that support eco-diversity and create natural outdoor spaces. Children attend two-weekly Eco council meetings to be part of applications.

School website and office

- The website will promote and celebrate sustainable initiatives
- Share our Eco Council aims
- Paperless communication and weekly newsletter

Travel

- Engage parents in green initiatives to promote healthier and greener commutes
- Support children and parents in accessing scooters and bikes
- Teach bikeability classes in Reception and Year 6, starting with balance bikes
- Junior road safety links and initiatives through the Eco School Council

Energy and recycling infrastructure embedded practice

- All stakeholders are aware of energy wastage and will commit to turning off lights and switching off devices that connect to power overnight. Light switches are labelled, so that this is clear to all.
- Use of the school garden to promote biodiversity and healthy growing
- Subject leaders and teachers are committed to reducing paper usage in all subjects and year groups and will offer practical support for all staff in managing this.
- All staff are committed to re-using resources whenever possible.
- Blinds are closed at the end of the school day to help retain heat.
- LED lighting has been installed
- Auto light sensors in storerooms (no good in classrooms as they switch off if no one moves about)
- Computer & screen regular upgrades to more efficient units
- Electric hand-driers in toilets instead of paper towels
- Recycle one time use batteries for collection.
- Window upgrade to a more efficient insulated type.
- Roof replacement with insulation upgrade- planned and applied for 2025
- Boilers serviced regularly to maintain efficiency.
- Heating on timed programmes for efficiency.
- Dry mixed recycling.

Curriculum

- The school will celebrate and promote worldwide initiatives and significant days, such as Earth Day, World Ocean Day and Clean Air Day. Leaders will engage with parents and children and link curriculum learning to these initiatives, as well as work towards permanent and lasting change.

- *Curriculum leads will include a sustainability action in their 2027/2028 action plans that is subject specific and contributes to the school action plan*
- *Travel to sporting competitions and local trips will be walking where possible and parents are encouraged to lift-share.*
- *Geography day focuses on pollution and physical geography in the local environment*
- *Fostering a love for exercise will encourage children to make informed choices about the way they travel.*
- *Ethical consumption of sports equipment.*
- *Encouraging the use of recycled, upcycled, or biodegradable materials in art and DT projects also using CAD to reduce the amount of paper used within planning.*
- *Teaching students to repurpose waste materials (e.g., turning scrap fabric into fashion pieces or using old plastics for sculptures).*
- *Encouraging minimal waste through careful material planning in DT projects. Exploring topics like climate change and using them as a creative stimulus.*
- *Students can engage in activities like land art, outdoor sketching, eco-printing, and public murals, using nature as both inspiration and material.*
- *DT projects include sustainable gardening, upcycling, and outdoor construction challenges, promoting hands-on learning and eco-conscious design. These experiences connect students with the environment, encourage cross-curricular learning, and inspire innovative, sustainable solutions for the future.*
- *Re-use photocopied materials next year to discourage waste*
- *Discourage printed resources where unnecessary*

Longer term aims

- *Recycling of old sport equipment.*
- *Use eco-conscious brands when purchasing equipment*
- *Installation of rainwater butts for garden watering on site.*
- *Vegetable and herb growing- garden area set up*
- *Planting of trees*
- *Forest School area development*
- *Subject leader reflections in action plans*