



Willow Wood Community Primary School Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

1. Purpose and Rationale

This policy sets out our school's commitment to sustainability and addressing climate change. As a primary school, we recognise that education plays a vital role in shaping the attitudes, knowledge, and behaviours of future generations. Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing the world today, with impacts including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, and risks to human health and wellbeing.

We have a responsibility not only to reduce our own environmental impact, but also to prepare our pupils to live in, and positively contribute to, a rapidly changing world. By embedding sustainability into school life, we aim to help children understand the connection between their everyday actions and the wider environment.

This policy reflects our commitment to:

- Acting responsibly as an organisation by reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact.
- Providing high-quality education about climate change that is accurate, age appropriate.
- Developing pupils' sense of responsibility, stewardship, and respect for the natural world.
- Supporting pupils' physical and mental wellbeing through connection with nature and outdoor learning
- Contributing to wider local, national, and global efforts to address climate change

We also recognise that schools are influential within their communities. By modelling sustainable practices and engaging families, we can help promote positive environmental change beyond the school gates.

2. Vision

We aim to create a school community where sustainability is embedded in everyday actions, and all pupils understand climate change and feel empowered to make a positive difference.

3. Aims

- Reduce the school's carbon footprint.
- Promote sustainable use of resources.
- Increase awareness of climate change and environmental issues.
- Encourage responsible behaviours in school and at home.
- Involve pupils in practical environmental action.
- Increase the number of children coming to school in an active way and use a travel tracker.

4. Key Areas of Action

4.1 Energy and Carbon Reduction

- Monitor and reduce energy use across the school.
- Switch off lights, heating, and devices when not in use.
- Explore renewable energy options where feasible.
- Recycle devices wherever possible.

4.2 Waste Reduction

- Follow the principles of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**.
- Provide clearly labelled recycling bins.
- Minimise single-use plastics.

4.3 Water Conservation

- Promote careful use of water.
- Complete a Waves Water Audit.
- Fix leaks quickly.
- Educate pupils about the importance of conserving water.

4.4 Sustainable Procurement

- Purchase environmentally friendly and ethically sourced products.
- Reduce paper use and encourage digital communication.
- Work with suppliers committed to sustainability.

4.5 Food and Sustainability

- Promote healthy, sustainable food choices.
- Grow food in school wherever possible in the allotment.
- Reduce food waste in school meals.
- Raise awareness of the environmental impact of food.

4.6 Travel and Transport

- Encourage walking, cycling, and scooting to school.
- Promote car-sharing and “park and stride” schemes.
- Participate in active travel initiatives.

4.7 Biodiversity and School Grounds

- Develop school grounds to support wildlife. (e.g. gardens, habitats)
- Encourage outdoor learning.
- Involve pupils in planting and caring for green spaces.

5. Climate Change Education

- Integrate sustainability and climate change into the curriculum.
- Teach pupils about causes, impacts, and solutions.
- Encourage critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Support eco-clubs and pupil-led initiatives.

6. Pupil Voice and Leadership

- Establish a School Eco-Committee.
- Involve pupils in decision-making and projects.
- Encourage peer education and awareness campaigns.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Headteacher/Sustainability Lead:** Overall responsibility for policy implementation.
- **Staff:** Embed sustainability in teaching and daily practice.
- **Pupils:** Participate actively and model positive behaviours.

- **Caretaker:** Support energy, waste, and water management.
- **Governors:** Monitor progress and support strategic direction.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Set measurable targets. (e.g. energy use, waste reduction)
- Review progress annually.
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff.
- Update actions based on findings.

9. Community Engagement

- Work with parents to promote sustainable practices.
- Share initiatives through newsletters and events.
- Collaborate with local organisations and environmental programmes.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and up to date.

11. Conclusion

This policy reflects our school's commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility. By embedding sustainable practices into daily school life and providing meaningful education about climate change, we aim to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to make informed choices now and in the future.

We recognise that addressing climate change is an ongoing responsibility that requires the collective effort of staff, pupils, governors, families, and the wider community. Through continuous reflection, collaboration, and action, we will strive to reduce our environmental impact and contribute positively to the world around us.

As a school, we are committed to leading by example, inspiring others, and ensuring that our pupils develop a strong sense of stewardship for the environment, both locally and globally.

Date: July 2026.

Review Date: September 2027.