

**DRAFT Climate Action Plan**

**August 2025**

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**1. Introduction**

At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, we believe that small actions lead to meaningful change. Our Climate Action Plan sets out our commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future—both for our school and for the wider community.

This plan aims to:

- Reduce our environmental footprint.
  - Be better prepared for extreme weather.
  - Encourage our school community to protect the environment.
  - Integrate sustainability into learning and daily school life.
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**2. Summary of Progress**

| <b>Status</b> | <b>Number of Actions</b> | <b>Notes</b>                               |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Not Started   | 18                       | Actions planned for future implementation. |
| In Progress   | 7                        | Work underway and ongoing.                 |
| Completed     | 5                        | Actions fully implemented and operational. |

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### 3. Priority Areas & Actions

#### A. Decarbonisation

Reducing our energy consumption and carbon footprint.

1. **Building Energy Audit** – Use pupil-led monitoring (based on the Count Your Carbon report) to identify inefficiencies and recommend improvements. *(In Progress)*
  2. **Outdoor Lessons** – Use outdoor spaces for teaching to reduce reliance on indoor lighting/heating and enhance learning experiences. Set up the Key Stage 1 outdoor space for outside learning. *(In Progress)*
  3. **Switch-Off Campaign** – Run awareness drives, competitions, and energy audits to embed energy-saving habits. *(Not started)*
  4. **Travel Survey** – Analyse commuting patterns and explore sustainable travel incentives. Collect data for all families through Arbor. *(In Progress)*
  5. **Separating Food Waste** – Keep food waste out of the general waste, reducing methane emissions from landfill and lowering our carbon footprint. *(In Progress)*
  6. **LED Lighting Upgrade** – Replace traditional bulbs with LEDs. *(Completed: Aug 2024)*
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#### B. Adaptation & Resilience

Preparing the school to cope with climate impacts.

1. **Improve Drainage** – subject to VASCA funding being available, install upgraded drainage in the playground to reduce surface water flooding and maintain safe, year-round access to school. *(In Progress)*
2. **SuDS Planters** – Capture and filter rainwater to prevent flooding and enhance biodiversity. DfE match funding is available – deadline October 2025. *(Not started)*
3. **Heatwave Safety Assessment** – Prepare a heatwave protocol. Install more shaded areas, repair hydration points, and adjust schedules during extreme heat. *(In Progress)*
4. **Audit Single-Use Plastics** – Identify and reduce disposable plastic use. *(Not started)*
5. **Water Conservation Strategy** – Introduce efficient fixtures, leak monitoring, and drought-resistant landscaping. *(Not started)*

6. **Water Butts** – Harvest rainwater for garden irrigation and cleaning. *(Not started)*
  7. **Solar Window Film** – Reduce heat gain/loss, glare, and UV damage. *(Completed: Aug 2025)*
  8. **Tree Planting** – Create shaded outdoor areas, improve air quality, and sequester carbon. *(Completed: Aug 2024)*
  9. **Refillable Stationery** – Switch to refillable whiteboard markers and gluesticks. *(In Progress)*
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## C. Biodiversity

Enhancing and protecting natural habitats on school grounds.

1. **Pupil Consultation on Grounds** – Gather ideas for sustainable and engaging outdoor spaces. *(Not started)*
  2. **Insect Hotel** – Provide habitats for beneficial insects. *(Not started)*
  3. **Nature Survey** – Document plant, insect, and animal species to guide biodiversity improvements. *(Not started)*
  4. **Pollinator Garden** – Plant wildflowers and nectar-rich plants for bees and butterflies. *(Not started)*
  5. **RSPB Birdwatch Participation** – Contribute to citizen science by monitoring local bird species. *(Not started)*
  6. **Herb Garden** – Supply the school kitchen with fresh produce. *(In progress)*
  7. **Composting System** – Create nutrient-rich soil from garden waste. *(In Progress)*
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## D. Climate Education & Green Skills

Embedding sustainability in the curriculum and culture.

1. **Eco Committee** – Pupil-led group to champion sustainability projects. Join the Eco-Schools programme. *(In Progress)*
2. **Outdoor Learning Programme** – Hands-on nature-based activities. *(Not started)*
3. **Sustainability Assemblies** – Termly events with guest speakers and challenges. *(Not started)*
4. **Reuse, Recycle Equipment and Furniture** – We purchase second-hand office furniture where possible demonstrating our commitment to the circular economy. *(In Progress)*

5. **Sustainable Uniform Policy** – Sourcing eco-friendly uniforms and promoting second-hand use. *(Not started)*
  6. **Carbon Footprint Awareness Campaign** – Educational posters, workshops, and challenges. *(Not started)*
  7. **Pupil-Led Energy & Waste Audit** – Identify areas for improvement through hands-on learning. *(Not started)*
  8. **Walk to School Week** – Promote active travel for environmental and health benefits. *(Not started)*
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#### 4. Monitoring & Review

- **Frequency:** Reviewed termly by the Eco Committee and annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body.
  - **Reporting:** Updates shared in school newsletters, assemblies, and on the school website.
  - **Evaluation:** Success measured against completion rates, energy/water savings, biodiversity gains, and community engagement levels.
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#### 5. Our Commitment

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is committed to becoming a role model for climate-conscious education. This plan represents both our ambition and our responsibility—to our students, our community, and the planet.

This commitment reflects our Catholic ethos of 'Learning in Love' and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. By caring for God's creation, promoting justice and solidarity with those affected by climate change, and fostering a culture of responsibility, we teach students to live their faith through action. Embedding sustainability in our curriculum and school life allows our community to demonstrate love for creation, love for neighbour, and love in practice, turning values into tangible, daily actions that benefit both people and our planet.

Jane Pringle and (Geography Lead) – Sustainability Leads  
Staff/Pupil/Community Members – Sustainability Action Group  
[www.sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk)