

St Mary's CE Primary School



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2025 - 2030

Ambition:

At St Mary's CE Primary School, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we're excited to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment, while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at St Mary's CE Primary School to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

KEY STRATEGIC AIMS:

- A. Create a culture that prioritises sustainability**
- B. Reduce the negative impact of our day-to-day activities on the environment**
- C. Establish local partnerships to support our overarching ambition**

A. CREATE A CULTURE THAT PRIORITISES SUSTAINABILITY

1. Establish a Sustainability Leadership Team

- **Identify Leaders:** Appoint a sustainability lead.
- **Identify Leaders:** appoint a link governor.
- **Identify Leaders:** set up a pupil 'Eco Committee', who will work towards us becoming an Eco School.

2. Set Clear Goals and Objectives

- **Short-term Goals:** Implement immediate changes, such as reducing paper use or starting a recycling program.
- **Long-term Goals:** Aim for larger projects like installing solar panels or achieving net-zero emissions by a specific year.

3. Monitor and Evaluate Progress

- **Track Metrics:** Regularly measure energy use, water consumption, and waste production.
- **Review Goals:** Periodically review and adjust goals based on progress and new opportunities.

4. Integrate Sustainability into the Curriculum

- **Lesson Plans:** Incorporate sustainability topics into such as science and geography.
- **Projects and Activities:** Engage students in hands-on projects, e.g. Forest School, gardening, energy monitoring, and waste audits, tree planting.

5. Engage the School Community

Awareness Campaigns: Run campaigns to educate students, staff, and parents about sustainability.

- **Events and Workshops:** Host events like Earth Day; Eco Days, RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch.

6. Report and Celebrate Achievements

- **Share Successes:** Communicate progress and achievements with the school community, for example on Dojo, SeeSaw, on our website and in assemblies
- **Recognise Efforts:** Celebrate milestones and recognize the contributions of students and staff.

B. REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Energy Efficiency:** improve insulation and use energy-efficient appliances.
- **Water Conservation:** Install low-flow fixtures, repair leaks, and use rainwater harvesting systems.
- **Waste Reduction:** Promote recycling (milk bottles, batteries, school uniform), composting, and reduce single-use plastics.
- **Sustainable Transportation:** Encourage walking, cycling, carpooling, and use of public transport.
- **Food waste:** use food waste bins at lunchtimes

D. ESTABLISH LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT OUR OVERARCHING AMBITION

- **Partnerships with parents/PTA:** ask for support with fundraising, running pre-loved uniform sales, recycling, planting of flowers and trees; and walking to school.
- **Partnership with church:** Work with links within the eco church movement to share ideas and expertise.
- **Partnership with contractors:** work with local gardeners and garden centres to work with our Eco Committee.
- **Partnerships with other schools:** Emmanuel Holcombe. Also, seek to work with other schools who are further on in their journey.

ACTION PLAN

ACTION	REVIEW DATE	ACTIVITIES
Establish sustainability leader	Nov 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain which colleagues would like to be a part of the plan. • Nominate a staff member who will lead on this and incorporate into their Appraisal.
Appoint a link Governor	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At FGB meeting, engage with all governors who wish to be a part of the plan. • Nominate a governor who be a link.
Set up a pupil Eco Committee, with a view to becoming an Eco School	Jan 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an eco-committee with the children • Launch assembly to whole school. • Complete action plan to become an Eco School.
Reduce use of paper	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of online options to set homework rather than paper • All planning saved on TEAMS rather than in folders • All newsletters shared on email • All permissions on school money app • Resources to be laminated and saved and re-used
Incorporate sustainability topics into science, geography, and other subjects.	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE and Science (Recycling), • DT and Geography (Bird watching /making bird feeders). • Bikeability
Engage students in hands-on projects	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird watching • Gardening • Tree planting • Bug-Hotels • Battery Collection Day
Develop links with the community, church and other schools	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter picking • Enhancing the front of school with flower planting • Public Speaking Event • Emmanuel Holcombe
Host events	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. • Children to complete a bird watching review. • Lead whole school Eco Days. • Recycling events of school uniform. • Battery Collection Day

Communicate progress and achievements with the school community	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dojo • On our website • Instagram • In assemblies
Review waste production and recycling practices.	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children use the Eco Schools review template to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of how 'Eco friendly' the school is. • Start recycling plastic milk bottles. • Work with our cook to recycle food waste. Educate the children on which bins to put food items in. Children to create posters and lead a presentation in Collective Worship.