

Sexton's Manor Primary School

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan



Date March 2026
Review date: Termly

Academic Year: 2025–2026

School: Sexton's Manor Primary School

Sustainability Lead: Headteacher: Lorraine Ratcliffe

1. Introduction

This document outlines our school's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. It forms our **Climate Action and Sustainability Plan**, aligned with guidance from the Department for Education on sustainability in education.

Our aim is to help pupils develop an understanding of the natural world, their role in protecting it, and the actions individuals and communities can take to support a more sustainable future. As a primary school, we recognise that developing curiosity, respect for nature and responsible habits from an early age is essential.

This plan builds on the positive work already taking place in school and identifies manageable actions for this academic year. The focus is on embedding sustainable practice into daily school life, learning opportunities and the management of our school environment.

2. Current Strengths

The school already demonstrates several environmentally responsible practices and learning opportunities:

- **Forest School sessions** provide regular outdoor learning and develop pupils' understanding of stewardship, wildlife and the natural environment.
- Pupils are learning to **identify common British birds by sight and song**, helping them build knowledge of local wildlife.
- **Bird feeders have been installed** to support local bird populations and allow pupils to observe wildlife within the school grounds.
- **Fruit waste is collected and composted**, reducing waste and supporting sustainable gardening.
- **Recycling bins are available** alongside general waste bins to encourage responsible waste disposal.
- **Energy reminder signs** are displayed to encourage staff and pupils to turn off lights when not in use.

These existing practices provide a strong foundation for further development of sustainability across the school.

3. Sustainability Action Plan

The following actions are organised in line with the key sustainability areas identified by the Department for Education.

A. Climate Education and Awareness

Action	What We Will Do	Success Criteria
Outdoor environmental learning	Continue to deliver regular Forest School sessions across the year groups	Pupils demonstrate increased knowledge of nature and environmental responsibility
Learning about local wildlife	Continue teaching pupils to identify common British birds by sight and song	Pupils can recognise and name a range of common birds
Environmental understanding	Identify where sustainability themes appear within the science and geography curriculum	A simple curriculum map showing where sustainability is taught
Pupil leadership	Establish a pupil Eco Council	Eco Council meets regularly and leads at least two sustainability initiatives during the year

B. Decarbonisation (Energy, Waste and Resource Use)

Action	What We Will Do	Success Criteria
Energy conservation	Maintain and promote signs reminding staff and pupils to switch off lights	Staff and pupils actively follow energy-saving routines
Waste reduction	Ensure classrooms have access to recycling bins as well as general waste bins	Increased use of recycling bins
Composting	Continue collecting fruit waste for composting	Compost is used in planting or gardening areas
Paper reduction	Encourage double-sided printing and increased digital communication where possible	Reduction in paper use across the school

C. Nature and Biodiversity

Action	What We Will Do	Success Criteria
Supporting bird life	Maintain bird feeders and encourage pupils to observe and record birds seen in the school grounds. Take part in the RSPB school bird count.	Pupils develop knowledge of local birds and wildlife
Biodiversity awareness	Continue teaching pupils to identify common British birds and understand their habitats	Increased pupil knowledge of local biodiversity
School grounds	Develop areas of the school grounds that support wildlife (e.g. wildflowers, planting, insect habitats)	Visible increase in wildlife-friendly features
Outdoor learning	Continue to use outdoor spaces for nature-based and curriculum learning to develop a love of the outdoors.	Pupils regularly engage with nature as part of the curriculum

D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Action	What We Will Do	Success Criteria
Outdoor learning spaces	Continue to develop and maintain outdoor learning areas	Outdoor learning is used regularly across the year
Tree and plant awareness	Plant bulbs or plants where possible with pupils. Take part in gardening initiative locally.	Pupils understand how plants support wildlife and the environment
Weather and climate learning	Teach pupils about weather patterns and climate through geography and science	Pupils can explain basic climate concepts

4. Pupil Engagement

Pupil voice will play an important role in our sustainability work. Through an **Eco Council**, pupils will:

- Share ideas for improving sustainability in school
- Help monitor recycling and energy-saving behaviour
- Lead awareness through assemblies or classroom activities

This will help pupils develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility for their environment.

5. Monitoring and Review

The sustainability plan will be monitored by the school leadership team and reviewed annually.

Progress will be measured through:

- Observation of daily practices (recycling, energy use, waste reduction)
- Pupil voice and Eco Council feedback
- Curriculum planning and learning outcomes
- Improvements to the school environment and biodiversity

Actions may be adapted or expanded in future years as the school continues to develop its commitment to sustainability.

6. Vision

Our long-term aim is to foster a school culture where respect for the environment is part of everyday life. Through practical actions, outdoor learning and environmental awareness, we want our pupils to develop the knowledge, values and habits needed to care for the world around them.