

# Blackwell First School

## Climate action plan



## **School vision**

At **Blackwell First School** we aim to educate the whole child and to ensure children are happy, healthy and fulfil their potential in terms of development of skills for life, social and moral values and academic success.

## **Our vision for our climate action plan**

To build a sustainable culture across our school community, empowering children and staff to take meaningful climate action, improve our environment, and inspire local change.

## **Leadership and governance**

Sustainability lead- **Katie James**

Sustainability team- Teaching staff and Governor, **Debbie Wilson**

The following policy outlines our schools plan for the 4 areas set out by the government

- Decarbonisation
- Climate education
- Resilience
- Natural environment

## **1. Curriculum and Learning**

**Aim:** Embed climate education across the curriculum to inspire awareness, responsibility, and action.

### **Actions:**

- Integrate environmental themes into science, geography, PSHE, art and news slots.
- Organise Eco Weeks, Earth Day activities, and outdoor learning focused on nature and sustainability.
- Involve pupils in projects such as litter picks, bug hotels, composting, and tree planting through weekly Forest School.
- Participate in national schemes like Eco-Schools, Let's Go Zero, and Forest School.

## **2. Energy and Carbon Reduction**

**Aim:** Reduce the school's carbon footprint through energy efficiency and sustainable practices.

### **Actions:**

- Conduct an energy audit in partnership with Worcestershire County Council or local organisations.
- Replace inefficient lighting with LED systems.
- Install smart meters and monitor usage regularly.
- Explore opportunities for solar panels or renewable energy through government funding.
- Encourage "switch off" campaigns for lights, devices, and projectors.
- Educate children on not being wasteful with food, water and resources such as paper towels.

- Explore water saving methods such as water collecting with a butt for Early Years water play.

### 3. Waste and Recycling

**Aim:** Minimise waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling.

**Actions:**

- Maintain clear recycling stations in every classroom.
- Maintain school-wide composting scheme/recycling for food and garden waste.
- Encourage litter-free lunches and reusable water bottles.
- Maintain reusable water bottles and milk cups.
- No single use plastics to be used with the exception of medical/hygiene resources.
- Run pupil-led campaigns and assemblies.

### 4. Travel and Air Quality

**Aim:** Promote sustainable, safe, and active travel to and from school.

**Actions:**

- Promote walking, cycling, or scooting with events like Walk to School Week.
- Work with local councils to improve air quality around the school gate.
- Maintain cycle/scooter parking.

### 5. Biodiversity and School Grounds

**Aim:** Enhance the school's natural environment and increase local biodiversity.

**Actions:**

- Maintain school garden and Forest School sites as wildlife-friendly zones.
- Plant trees, native flowers, and shrubs that support pollinators.
- Use school grounds for hands-on science and outdoor learning. Forest School weekly for all children.

### 6. Community and Partnerships

**Aim:** Involve the whole school community and local partners in climate action.

**Actions:**

- Maintain an Eco Council with pupils, staff, and governors.
- Share progress with parents through newsletters, ParentApp, and assemblies.
- Collaborate with other local schools to share resources and ideas.
- Join Worcestershire's climate and environment education networks.

## 7. Leadership and Governance

**Aim:** Ensure sustainability is embedded in school leadership and decision-making.

**Actions:**

- Designate a staff Sustainability or Eco Lead- **Katie James**
- Ensure the School Development Plan includes climate action goals.
- Monitor progress through pupil feedback, audits, and a climate action log.
- Review this plan annually and update actions based on achievements and new opportunities.

## Monitoring and Review

This Climate Action Plan will be reviewed every 12 months. Key indicators will include:

- Energy consumption data
- Waste reduction achievements
- Participation in eco activities
- Pupil and parent engagement

Written by Katie James

Next review: Autumn 2027