



Thirsk Community Primary School - Climate Action Plan

This action plan is to be implemented over a three-year period in order to compliment other school priorities. This plan will come into effect from September 2025 and will have 2 review points each year. This is a 'live' document and as such, is subject to change.

1. Staff Expertise

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Enhance staff knowledge on climate change and sustainability practises	1. Organise CPD sessions on energy efficiency, climate change, and sustainable school practises. 2. Provide access to online climate education resources and webinars.	Headteacher / CPD coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budget for CPD- Access to expert speakers/webinars- Time allocated for meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All teaching and support staff complete at least one sustainability CPD annually.- Increased staff confidence in delivering climate education.	Climate education and green careers
Build capacity to monitor and improve energy use	1. Implement regular energy audits with staff involvement. 2. Develop a simple energy tracking system for ongoing monitoring.	Site Manager / Business Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training materials- Energy monitoring tools/software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Facilities staff trained.- Energy audits completed twice a year.- Energy use data regularly collected and reviewed.	Decarbonisation



			- Time for audits		
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2. Staff/Pupils

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Engage pupils and staff in sustainability behaviours	1. Launch a 'Green Champions' initiative involving pupils and staff. 2. Run regular energy and waste reduction campaigns. 3. Promote active participation in recycling schemes beyond paper and card.	Sustainability Lead / Class Teachers	- Campaign materials - Time for assemblies and activities - Recycling bins and signage	- Increased participation in 'Green Champions' programme. - Reduction in energy and waste measured termly. - Recycling rates improved.	Climate education and green careers
Increase awareness of personal carbon footprints	1. Deliver workshops on individual actions to reduce carbon footprints. 2. Encourage staff and pupils to set personal sustainability goals. 3. Use classroom discussions	Class Teachers / Sustainability Lead	- Workshop resources - Display materials - Time in curriculum	- Pupils and staff report increased awareness. - Personal goals set and reviewed. - Positive behaviour changes observed.	Climate education and green careers



	and displays to reinforce messages.				
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3. Buildings/Grounds

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions	1. Investigate feasibility of installing solar PV panels. 2. Continue optimising lighting and heating controls.	Business Manager / Headteacher	- Energy consultant advice - Funding options - Time for feasibility studies	- Feasibility report completed. - Solar PV installation planned or initiated.	Decarbonisation
Enhance biodiversity and use of green space	1. Develop outdoor learning areas with native plants and wildlife habitats. 2. Create a school pond to support biodiversity 3. Use green space for	Headteacher/ Curriculum lead	- Plants and gardening tools - Outdoor classroom resources	- Outdoor learning areas established. - Increased biodiversity observed. - Regular use of	Biodiversity



	environmental education activities.		- Volunteer support	green space in curriculum.	
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4. School Lunches

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Promote sustainable and healthy school meals	1. Work with catering to increase use of locally sourced, seasonal produce. 2. Reduce food waste through portion control and pupil education.	Catering Manager / School Leadership	- Supplier information - Food waste tracking tools	- Increase in local and seasonal food usage. - Reduction in food waste measured termly.	Decarbonisation

5. Curriculum

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
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Embed climate change and sustainability across the curriculum	1. Review curriculum to identify opportunities to integrate climate education. 2. Provide teachers with resources and training on climate topics. 3. Plan cross-curricular projects focused on sustainability challenges.	Curriculum Lead / Class Teachers	-Curriculum mapping tools - Climate education resources - CPD time	- Curriculum includes climate education in all year groups. - Teachers confident delivering sustainability topics. - Pupil projects completed and showcased.	Climate education and green careers
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6. Wellbeing

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Support pupil and staff wellbeing through connection to nature	1. Use green spaces for regular outdoor learning and wellbeing activities. 2. Promote mindfulness and nature-based wellbeing programmes. 3. Encourage active breaks and physical activity outdoors.	Wellbeing Lead / Class Teachers	- Outdoor activity plans - Mindfulness resources - Staff training	- Increased use of outdoor spaces. - Positive feedback from pupils and staff. - Improved wellbeing indicators.	Adaptation and resilience

7. Opportunities for Pupil Leadership



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Empower pupils to lead sustainability initiatives	1. Establish a pupil-led Eco Committee. 2. Provide training and support for pupil leaders. 3. Enable pupils to organise sustainability events and campaigns.	Sustainability Lead / Headteacher	- Training materials - Meeting space and time - Support from staff	- Eco Committee active and meeting regularly. - Pupil-led events held annually. - Increased pupil engagement in sustainability.	Climate education and green careers

8. Procurement

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed sustainable procurement practises	1. Review current suppliers for sustainability credentials. 2. Prioritise purchasing from local and ethical suppliers. 3. Implement policies to reduce single-use plastics and waste.	Business Manager / Procurement Officer	- Supplier data - Procurement policy templates - Staff training	- Sustainable procurement policy adopted. - Increase in local and ethical purchases. - Reduction in single-use plastics.	Decarbonisation

9. Parents



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Engage parents in the school's climate action efforts	1. Communicate climate goals and progress via newsletters and meetings. 2. Organise family sustainability workshops and events. 3. Encourage sustainable behaviours at home through information sharing.	Headteacher / Parent Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication channels - Event planning resources - Educational materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular climate updates sent to parents. - Good attendance at sustainability events. - Positive parent feedback and involvement. 	Climate education and green careers

10. Transportation and Travel

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Promote sustainable travel to and from school	1. Encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport. 2. Implement a 'Walk to School' campaign. 3. Provide secure bike storage and promote its use.	School Travel Coordinator / Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaign materials - Bike racks - Liaison with local transport providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in pupils walking or cycling. - Higher public transport use recorded. - Reduced car drop-offs. 	Decarbonisation

11. Digital Sustainability



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Reduce the carbon footprint of digital technology use	1. Promote energy-saving settings on all devices. 2. Implement policies for responsible digital use and device lifecycle management. 3. Encourage digital minimalism to reduce unnecessary energy consumption.	IT Coordinator / Business Manager	- IT policy documents - Staff and pupil training - Monitoring tools	- Energy-saving settings activated on all devices. - Clear digital use policy adopted. - Reduced energy use from IT equipment.	Decarbonisation

12. Partnerships and Collaborations

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Build partnerships to enhance climate action	1. Collaborate with local environmental organisations for projects and expertise. 2. Participate in city-wide sustainability networks. 3. Seek external funding and support for green initiatives.	Headteacher / Sustainability Lead	- Contact lists - Networking opportunities - Grant application support	- Partnerships established with at least two organisations. - Participation in local networks. - Funding secured for at least one project.	Climate education and green careers



13. Governance and Policy

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed climate action in school governance	1. Include sustainability as a standing agenda item in governing body meetings. 2. Develop and adopt a school-wide climate action policy. 3. Set measurable targets and review progress annually.	Headteacher / Chair of Governors	- Policy templates - Meeting agendas - Monitoring tools	- Climate action policy adopted. - Regular reporting to governors. - Targets set and progress documented.	Decarbonisation

14. Resilience and Adaptation

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Increase school resilience to climate impacts	1. Review and update risk assessments considering climate-related risks. 2. Develop plans for heatwaves and extreme weather events. 3. Use green spaces to manage water runoff and improve microclimate.	Site Manager / Health & Safety Officer	- Risk assessment tools - Emergency planning resources - Landscaping expertise	- Updated risk assessments including climate risks. - Emergency plans in place and tested. - Green space management plans implemented.	Adaptation and resilience



This Climate Action Plan is designed to build on Thirsk Community Primary School's existing strengths and address opportunities for further improvement, ensuring a sustainable, resilient, and educationally rich environment for pupils and staff.