Climate Action Plan

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The Department for Education has called on all education settings to develop a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan that outlines how we, as a school community, will contribute to national and international efforts to protect our planet. Schools have a crucial role to play – not only in reducing their environmental footprint and working towards net zero, but also in equipping children, young people and adults with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a greener future and to help restore nature.

At St. Jude's, we are committed to this responsibility. Through our Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, we will engage directly with children, parents and wider stakeholders who care deeply about the natural world and want to play an active role in protecting it. Our pupils, from Early Years to Year 6, will develop a secure and meaningful understanding of nature, sustainability and the causes and impacts of climate change.

Our plan is structured around the four key themes identified in the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:

1. Decarbonisation and net zero – we aim to reduce energy use and our carbon footprint across school.
2. Biodiversity and nature – we aim to support local wildlife and provide ecological learning opportunities.
3. Climate Action and Green Skills – we aim to embed sustainability across the curriculum and inspire future green leaders.
4. Adaptation and Resilience – we aim to prepare and respond to the impacts of climate change and environmental challenges.

1. Decarbonisation and net zero

Reduce energy use and our carbon footprint across school.				
Action	**Timeframe**	**Stakeholders**	**Resources needed**	**Success criteria/progress**
Energy				
Monitor energy and water use and take regular actions. Ensure heating and water systems have appropriate timing and temperatures.	Ongoing	Site Manager, business manager	Switch off fortnight' teaching resources and awareness posters. School water saving pack from United Utilities Meter readings.	Participate in 'Switch off fortnight' each year and business manager monitors energy use and shares with staff and parents. United Utilities visited school Summer 2026 to rectify any leaks/drips to ensure water consumption is minimized.
Implement 'power down' strategy and increase the use of energy efficient appliances	Autumn 2026 onwards	Staff, IT Team, Pupils	Include computers, projectors, and classroom equipment.	Email sent every half term by business manager reminding staff not to leave appliances on standby. Continue to maintain LED lighting across school. Smart meters installed and being used to monitor energy use. Replace ICT equipment with energy efficient alternatives –

				new laptops purchased September 2026.
Maintain or improve upon EPC rating of C (70)(renewed March 2026)	Ongoing	Business manager		
Promote sustainable travel	Ongoing	SLT	Travel surveys, incentives in STEM week, bike storage, Bikeability programme for Y6, car share	Wc.01.03.27 – Walk to school week for St. Judes. Survey to be sent out to families and staff. Research EV chargers for staff use.
Introduce a vegetarian option everyday to reduce the impact of animal carbon emissions.	Ongoing	SLT and kitchen staff.	Food Menus	From September 2026 we have introduced a vegetarian option everyday.
Grow fruit and vegetables for use in lessons			Outdoor learning and science projects	
Ensure food bins are used in the kitchen to recycle and reduce amount of food waste.	Ongoing	Business manager Site manager Kitchen staff	Track reduction over time	Introduce food bins March 2025 for children.
Introduce uniform shop online to encourage re-using clothes.	December 2026	Business manager	Second-hand uniform. Online platform – Evolve.	

Encourage recycling across school.			Identify gaps in recycling provision	Re-using school supplies by providing KS2 with pencil cases. Introduce recycling bins across school March 2025. Live Simply action – promote use of Christmas message board rather than Christmas cards. Scrap paper tray in each classroom. Book swap on World Book Day

2. Biodiversity & Nature

To support local wildlife and provide ecological learning opportunities.

Action	Timeframe	Stakeholders	Notes	Progress
Develop habitat map of school site through Nature Park website	December 2026	Eco-Council and Whole school	Use DfE Nature Recovery guidance	November 2026 – site boundary of school created on Nature Park site and school registered. Miss Alder leading habitat mapping throughout December 2026.
Integrate biodiversity monitoring into Nature School sessions.	Ongoing		Recording sheets Wildlife camera	Ongoing work from January will include launching our wildlife camera, nature surveys and activities to track and improve biodiversity using Nature Park

			Magnifying glasses	resources across all year groups. Pupils record wildlife observations, add to school display.
Develop school grounds with seasonal flowers and shrubs. Maintain broadleaf trees to encourage climate resilience.	Ongoing	Whole school	Linked to Science curriculum; flowers for bees and butterflies	Install pollinator-friendly meadow – Spring 2027 Maintain the upkeep of our Spiritual Garden. Develop our nature area with plants using standing deadwood and log piles to create habitats for wildlife. Create hedgehog highways. Hang bird feeders. Leave a patch of grass to grow longer.
School Council to lead a project to improve the school grounds for wildlife.	Spring–Summer 2027	School Council, Science Lead, Site Manager and pupils	Use the school's habitat map, wildlife camera footage and pupil surveys to choose a project. Pupils could monitor a patch of longer grass, record visitors to the pollinator meadow or observe	**Planned.** School councillors will gather ideas from their classes, agree one project and share what they did and what they observed through the school nature display or newsletter.

			which birds use the feeders.	
Begin rainwater collection for watering plants.	November 2026	Site manager	Rain butt	Install rain butt.

3. Climate Education & Green Skills

To embed sustainability across the curriculum and inspire future green leaders				
Action	**Timeframe**	**Stakeholders**	**Notes**	**Progress**
Teach sustainability across Science, Geography, RE and PSHE in all year groups.	Ongoing	Teachers	Curriculum materials and planning.	Enrichment activities planned to enhance teaching and learning. Eg. STEM ambassadors booked to support teaching of sustainability, trips to Martin Mere and Chester zoo. Throughout Autumn 1 all classes focus on Laudato Si and stewardship in RE lessons to promote sustainability and explore ways to do so across school.
School council to oversee and lead sustainability focuses for the school.	Ongoing	School council leader	School council meetings.	

Share updates on climate actions and sustainability with staff, parents and governors when required.	Ongoing	SLT	Climate action plan	New bins and recycling shared at staff/governors meeting February 2025. STEM ambassadors and enrichment shared with all staff/governors each Summer 2. Regular updates on Nature school shared with staff/governors. Climate Action plan is a regular item on the full governing body agenda. We share updates on climate actions and sustainability on our weekly newsletter.
Climate fiction / eco-stories in English curriculum promote sustainability and positive climate action	Ongoing	English lead	English long term plan	Texts across school promote sustainability eg. EYFS The Tiny Seed and The Leaf Thief, Y2 Wolves, Y3 The Last Garden and Y6 The Promise (regeneration).
Citizen science programmes Take part in a school birdwatch to identify and count birds visiting the school grounds.	Spring term 2027, with a follow-up count in the summer term if possible.	Science Lead, class teachers, School Council and pupils.	Bee counts, bird counts, tree surveys, water quality sampling (e.g., RSPB, Earthwatch). Use bird identification sheets and simple tally	Planned. Pupils will record the species and numbers seen and share their findings on the school nature display. The results will give the School Council a starting point for future wildlife surveys.

			charts. Older pupils can turn their results into charts and compare what they see in different parts of the school grounds.	
Use clean, reclaimed materials in a planned art project to explore how everyday materials can be reused.	Summer term 2027	Art Lead, class teachers and pupils.	Exhibitions that raise awareness about waste and reuse. Link the project to an existing art unit. Pupils could use scrap paper, cardboard or fabric offcuts to create a collage or collaborative piece.	Proposed. Pupils will explain which materials they reused and display selected work with a short message about reuse.

4. Adaptation & Resilience

To prepare and respond to the impacts of climate change and environmental challenges.				
Action	**Timeframe**	**Stakeholders**	**Notes**	**Progress**
Conduct Climate Risk Assessment	July 2026	SLT	Risk assessment	Based on risk assessment we know we need to create more shaded areas for extreme hot weather.

Share extreme weather warnings from Wigan Health and Safety with staff and parents.	Ongoing	Business manager	Parent App Newsletter	