

## Moorside Climate Action Plan 2025 – 2027/8

Your Carbon baseline:

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

### What is a Climate Action Plan?

In April 2022, the Department for Education released a sustainability and climate change strategy specifically for education. By 2025, all education settings are expected to appoint a sustainability lead and develop a climate action plan. This plan will guide schools in both implementing and educating about various sustainability initiatives.

### Why Do We Want to Act?

At Moorside Primary School, our ethos is deeply rooted in preparing our children for a sustainable future while celebrating our local heritage. The core belief, "Global Awareness - Local Responsibility," captures our commitment to thinking globally and acting locally to address the climate crisis.

We strive to equip our children with the understanding and tools to make a positive impact on the world. Respect and care for the environment have always been integral to our school culture. We are fortunate to be surrounded by our beautiful green Meadow at Moorside, and through our outdoor learning, and plan to develop a Forest School program, where children will regularly engage with and appreciate the natural world.

We aim to incorporate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) throughout our curriculum, ensuring that our students develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental responsibility. When studying national parks, such as the Exhibition Park and Nuns Moor Park, children learn about protecting life on land. In Local Area studies, we emphasise land use and community impact, linking to "Sustainable Cities and Communities," by asking questions like "Is there enough parking in our area?" Through themes like Weather and Seasons and Rivers, we address climate patterns and water preservation. Linking to "Climate Action" and "Clean Water and Sanitation."

When exploring Natural Disasters such as volcanoes and earthquakes, we discuss the human and environmental impact, teaching children to respect and prepare for natural forces, which ties into building resilience against climate change. Our Biomes work engages children with "Life on Land," as they conduct fieldwork to determine whether our school grounds support local wildlife sufficiently.

Environmental education is further embedded through themes such as oceans and continents, exploring the impact of natural disasters, investigating Polar Regions, and promoting sustainable food practices. We also inspire our children by learning about environmental champions like David Attenborough, who exemplify the importance of protecting our planet.

However, given the escalating climate crisis, the impact on children's mental health, and the necessity for our children to develop skills relevant to life in the 2030s, we recognise that more must be done. Our climate action plan is a core component of our overall school development strategy, and we will review it regularly, ensuring our environmental impact is considered in every decision, whether daily operational choices or long-term strategic planning. By embodying sustainable practices, we will demonstrate the respect we hold for our planet and model the importance of environmental responsibility.

### **How will we deliver this climate action plan and monitor progress?**

At Moorside Primary School, our climate action plan will focus on four key areas: decarbonisation, adaptation and resilience, biodiversity, and climate education and green skills. Each of these areas will have clear objectives, with specific actions outlined for the current academic year.

Our entire school community – children, staff, families, governors and the wider local community – will work collaboratively to bring this plan to life. Engaging with everyone, listening to their ideas, and involving them in our green initiatives is crucial. We will continue to build on existing relationships and forge new partnerships, leveraging shared resources and support to help meet our sustainability goals.

The delivery of our climate action plan will be overseen by the governing body, with regular monitoring conducted by our sustainability lead governor. To ensure the plan is implemented effectively, we will provide staff with the necessary time and resources to develop and carry out the actions. Specific members of staff will be identified as leads and champions for key elements of the plan.

This overarching climate action plan will be reviewed and updated every three years to reflect progress and evolving needs. On an annual basis, we will set new goals and assess our progress, ensuring we are on track to meet our sustainability targets. Regular termly reviews will help keep us focused and accountable as we work towards our long-term vision.

Photos – meadow – grounds

### **Decarbonisation at Moorside Primary School**

At Moorside Primary School, our goal is to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030. This means that by this date, we aim for the school to have no contribution to climate change through carbon emissions, whether from the school site, activities, or procurement.

Our efforts to decarbonise will focus on the following key areas:

- Energy Use
- Food
- School Grounds
- Procurement
- Travel

- Waste
- Water

We will calculate our carbon emissions and implement strategies to reduce them. This includes becoming more energy-efficient, transitioning to greener energy sources, and encouraging both staff and children to actively monitor and reduce energy consumption.

Sustainability will be a core element of our school site strategy, which will be outlined in a separate document. Additionally, we will develop a sustainable procurement policy to guide our purchasing decisions, ensuring that we consider the environmental impact of the products and services we buy, as well as the companies we support.

Transport is a significant contributor to air pollution and carbon emissions, particularly in areas around schools, which can also affect children's health. Therefore, we will collaborate with local organisations to encourage low-carbon commuting options for both staff and children, promoting walking, cycling, and the use of public transport.

Recycling will be a priority at Moorside Primary, with an increase in the recycling of materials such as food waste, alongside efforts to reduce overall waste, particularly single-use plastics and food packaging. We will also explore opportunities to enhance water efficiency, including harvesting rainwater.

To support our decarbonisation goals, we will explore various funding opportunities, such as grants, school reserves, and potential capital funding from local authorities. By improving energy efficiency, we expect to not only reduce our carbon footprint and also lower long-term energy costs and other associated expenses, such as waste disposal.

### **Adaptation and Resilience at Moorside Primary School**

We are committed to maintaining a high-quality learning environment for all our children, even as the climate changes. To achieve this, we will adapt our school site to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Our actions will enhance the biodiversity of our school site. We will introduce nature-based solutions, such as planting species that are resilient to the changing climate, which will support local wildlife and help create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly space for our children.

As part of our ongoing efforts to educate students about the climate crisis, we will also embed sustainability and climate change into the curriculum. Children will engage with environmental topics across subjects, including geography lessons focusing on the local and global impacts of climate change. Our school will further enrich children's learning by incorporating opportunities for outdoor learning and connecting with nature, offering them real-life experiences related to climate resilience and sustainability.

To support our adaptation and resilience goals, we will introduce additional shade structures and plant more trees and shrubs to improve air quality and provide relief from extreme heat. We will also consider using rainwater collection systems to support sustainable gardening practices. Our school's active involvement in climate education, paired with these physical adaptations to the school grounds, will ensure that our community is not only resilient to climate impacts but also engaged in meaningful action.

### **Biodiversity at Moorside Primary School**

We recognise the importance of contributing to the solution of the biodiversity crisis. We have already started plans to progress in enhancing the biodiversity of our school grounds through initiatives like outdoor learning, creating a forest school, and a possible gardening club.

We will further our commitment to biodiversity by actively participating in the National Education Nature Park and the Climate Action Awards, both of which will provide valuable learning opportunities for our children. These programs will help children build the skills necessary for a sustainable future, while strengthening their understanding of climate change and green careers.

To ensure that our efforts are targeted and effective, we will use geospatial mapping tools to assess the current biodiversity of the school site. This will allow us to identify areas where we can make further improvements, enhancing habitats for wildlife and creating more sustainable spaces.

When selecting plant species for our grounds, we will carefully consider their impact on local ecosystems, including their water needs and the potential for invasive species. Our priority will be to choose native plants and drought-tolerant species, ensuring that our planting choices support the resilience of the site in the face of a changing climate.

### **Climate Education and Green Skills**

We believe that it is essential for children to understand the climate crisis to actively contribute to its mitigation and be prepared for the challenges of the future, including exploring potential green careers.

We are committed to providing a knowledge-rich curriculum that incorporates climate change education, ensuring that our teachers are fully supported in delivering this important content. We also recognise that the environment in which children are taught plays a vital role in fostering sustainability. Our school environment will reflect our commitment to sustainability, providing a nurturing, engaging, and enjoyable space for learning.

### **Actions to Support Climate Education and Green Skills:**

Our approach will focus on the following key areas:

- Develop Outdoor Learning and Forest School provision
- Review and develop our Curriculum
- Leadership at all levels

➤ Training and professional development

In reviewing our curriculum, we will aim to include age-appropriate references to climate change, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These will be further integrated across the various subjects, ensuring our children develop a sense of social responsibility and an understanding of the interconnection between people and the planet.

Action	DfE link	Success Criteria	Timeframe	Key stakeholders/ Responsibility	Impact Progress Tracker
Review our current curriculum and links to sustainability and climate change.					
<b>Outdoor Learning &amp; Forest School</b> Develop Forest School provision and expand outdoor learning opportunities across all year groups.	<a href="#">DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Schools, 2022</a>	All classes participate in regular outdoor learning and embedded into the curriculum; Forest School sessions take place as part of the curriculum offer; all children demonstrate engagement and awareness of nature.	2 years	Sustainability Lead, Subject Leads, Class Teachers, Forest School Leaders	Annual review of participation numbers; termly feedback from children; log of outdoor learning sessions and outcomes.
<b>Curriculum Review &amp; Development</b> Embed climate change, sustainability, and Sustainable Development Goals across subjects, linking to local and global environmental issues.	<a href="#">DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Schools, 2022</a>	Curriculum documents updated; lessons include climate education; children demonstrate understanding of key sustainability concepts.	3-5 years	Subject Leads, Teachers	Termly curriculum audits; children's work and assessment reviews; observation of lessons integrating sustainability.
<b>Leadership at All Levels</b> Appoint a sustainability lead and establish climate action	<a href="#">DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Schools, 2022</a>	Sustainability lead appointed; governors actively monitor progress; leadership	2 years	Headteacher, and SLT, Governors, Sustainability Lead	Termly leadership reports; governor meeting minutes; evidence of decisions

responsibilities at leadership and governor level.		demonstrates climate-informed decision making.			influenced by climate action considerations.
<b>Training and Professional Development</b> Provide CPD for staff on sustainability, outdoor learning, and climate education strategies.	<a href="#"><u>DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Schools, 2022</u></a>	All staff receive targeted CPD; teachers able to deliver climate-focused lessons; increased confidence in using outdoor spaces and delivering Forest School sessions.	3 years	Sustainability Lead, Headteacher and SLT, Subject leads	Staff training log; staff confidence surveys; lesson observations highlighting use of new skills.