



## **Lea Endowed Church of England Primary School**

### **CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

**Autumn 25/26**

**Review Date: Autumn 26/27**

#### **Our Climate Change Education Intent:**

**To ensure that all staff are equipped to give our children the knowledge and tools to understand climate change, take climate action and proactively protect the environment.**

#### **What is Climate Change?**

The dictionary definition is: ***A change in global or regional acclimate patterns, in particular a change apparent from mod to late 20th Century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.***

There are many factors that can make the Earth warmer and colder including:

- greenhouse gases caused by human activity,
- deforestation, where more than half of the world's surface has been ploughed and paved,
- ozone layer trapping heat closer to the Earth's surface
- different types of air pollution which have different effects on the atmosphere.

The challenge of climate change is formidable. For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth, but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich

education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field (DFE 2023).

### **What can we do?**

The DFE has called on all education sectors to create a sustainability climate action plan to show how we, as a school community, can support national and international initiatives which are aimed at protecting the world through direct climate action. At Lea Endowed, we have an important role to play in this, particularly reducing our environmental footprint to work towards net zero and giving all our children, young people and adults the knowledge and skills to thrive in the green economy and to help restore nature.

### **What do we already do?**

- Our Science curriculum reflects climate & sustainability awareness and is embedded from EYFS-Y6.
- Picture News is used to raise awareness of climate issues and links to God's beautiful world.
- Recycling bins used in each classroom and in the staffroom.
- Food waste bins introduced in each classroom and in the staffroom.
- Eco Group led by HW to promote sustainability and looking after God's beautiful world.
- Litter picking- HW uses litter pickers to encourage children to keep our school and shared spaces free of litter.
- Green Hearts – rewarding green ideas around school and at home.
- Reduced use of plastic at lunch time – metal cutlery.
- Reduce carbon footprint in building through planning outdoor lessons.
- Summer Term gardening club led by JM and volunteers from our school community.

Through our sustainability climate action plan at Lea Endowed, we will engage directly with our children to encourage them to be passionate about the natural world, encourage them to want to do their best to protect it and show them how they can influence their wider communities. Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to Year 6, our children will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.

Using the areas identified in the DFE's Sustainability and climate change strategy 'Sustainability and Climate Change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK' our sustainability and climate action plan will focus on:

1. Decarbonisation - taking action to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient.
2. Biodiversity - engaging with National Education Nature Park & The Wildlife Trust
3. Climate Education and Green Spaces - knowledge rich comprehensive teaching about climate change.

It will also ensure our children will continue to:

- spend time in nature and learn more about it.
- become actively involved in the improvement of their local environment
- know that regular contact with green spaces can have a beneficial impact on their physical and mental health.
- find out more about the impact of energy and water use.
- see sustainability brought to life in the buildings around them, allowing them to gain experiences which will enhance and contextualise their learning.

### CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – short-term

Action	Steps	Timeline	Costs	Resources	Person responsible
Recruit new Eco Group members.	Ask staff and take names to current Eco group to vote.	Spring 1	N/A	N/A	CS RB LG HW
<b><i>Carbon Footprint Reduction</i></b>					
Sign up for Let's Go Zero for 2030	Register online  - Let's Go Zero is a campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission	September 2025	Free	Let's Go Zero website	LG
To promote active travel and walking to school.	Research 'Living Streets' Walk to School Week with Stryder.  Promote the 'Living Streets' WOW challenge through PE.	Spring 2	Sports Premium?	Living Streets WOW challenge website.	See SR to ask about the opportunity to use sports premium funding.
<b><i>Waste Reduction &amp; Recycling</i></b>					

<p>Reduce food waste by composting fruit and vegetable waste at school.</p> <p>Introduce composter for each playground to dispose of fruit waste at playtime.</p> <p>Kitchen food separated into composting items and non-composting items.</p> <p>Weekly litter picks – Eco Ambassadors</p>	<p>1) Small food waste bins to be used in classroom and staff room. 2) Make sure the Eco team take fruit and vegetable waste out each day and check it is not too wet or too dry. Bin to be placed on the playground for break time. 3) Turn it occasionally.</p> <p>Research National Litter Pick Week and Eco group to create an assembly.</p>	1-3 months	N/A	<p>Small food bins. Gloves and aprons for Eco group.</p> <p>Litter pickers &amp; recyclable rubbish bags</p>	<p>LG JM HW All staff including kitchen staff Pupils</p> <p>LG JM HW</p>
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*School produces plenty of fruit and vegetable waste, which if composted, can provide the means to refresh the school's growing area. It also offers opportunities to learn about decomposition.*

Run a ' <b>Plastic-free Lunch</b> ' campaign encouraging reusable containers	Eco/Climate Club students to create posters – put around school and talk to classes about what they plan to do.	1-3 months	N/A	Recycled/Scrap paper	Eco Group
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*Reuse*

Raise funds for school or other causes by promoting the selling of unwanted clothes, toys, book, games etc to be reused.	Make parents aware of termly events and encourage children to bring an item to promote reusing -e.g. When clothing is thrown away it goes to landfill sites. These landfill sites do not provide an atmosphere where clothing can biodegrade which leads to the clothing releasing harmful greenhouse gases.	Ongoing.	Free	Recycle 4 School help organise collections of good quality unwanted clothing by encouraging parents, students and staff to recycle their unwanted items, and make a BACS payment into your school fund within 5 working days of the collection.	Staff Pupils Parents
<b>Green Spaces &amp; Biodiversity</b>					
Increase our school's knowledge of biodiversity by running a spring/summer gardening club.	<p>Bulbs and seeds to be sourced.</p> <p>Advertise amongst KS1/KS2 pupils.</p> <p>Grow plants and get students involved in maintenance/ harvest.</p>	Summer 2	Low: Price of bulbs and seeds	<p><a href="#">Simple gardening club ideas / RHS Campaign for School Gardening</a></p> <p>Bulbs &amp; seeds</p>	JM LG HW Volunteers
Increase biodiversity on school property by planting pots.	1) Assess school grounds and consider the placements of any pots and health and safety risks.	Ongoing (extra time over summer needed for watering and mulching new plants).	Low: Price of plants/bulbs and seeds.	Rescue plants and shrubs from garden centres.	LG JM /SLT

	2) Upkeep of said plants and bushes to be considered.			Get in touch with B&Q about planters or plants for schools.	
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