



STOKES WOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Climate Change and
Sustainability Action Plan**

2024 – 2025 Reviewed

'What we do today, matters tomorrow.'

At Stokes Wood Primary School we are committed to educating pupils about the importance of respecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. We recognise we have a duty to equip its pupils with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution by improving our local area.

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their negative and positive actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions, and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

Furthermore, schools are at the hearts of their communities and therefore have the responsibility of being local leaders in behavioural changes and sustainable practices. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst staff and pupils and to educate and inspire our wider community.



We are very proud of our sustainability journey at Stokes Wood which has achieved the following awards so far:



Our Action Plan is an essential tool to measure, manage and reduce our carbon footprint, having identified real opportunities to reduce emissions, and take steps to reach our climate ambition.

The Climate Action Team at Stokes Wood plays a crucial role in implementing the steps in this guide and overseeing the school's efforts towards sustainability. Our climate action team consists of:

- Sustainability Lead – Megan Williams
- Office Manager – Hazel Bramley
- Site Manager – Graham Smith
- Forest School lead – Tracey Wakeling
- PE Lead – Charlie Freeman
- Gardening Lead – Sally Smith
- Governor – Hiten Patel
- Eco Warriors – 10 pupils Year 2 -6

The plan is split into two sections:

- Section 1: Commitment to continue with the actions we are already taking
- Section 2: Action Plan for change

Section 1: Our commitment to continue with the following actions

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate education and green careers	We continue to have 4 or more assemblies a year on what school is already doing around the environment and climate change, and how pupils can get involved in this work.	Sustainability Lead
2	Climate education and green careers	We continue to seek out good practice to get inspired and share learning with other education settings on learning about climate change.	Sustainability Lead
3	Climate education and green careers	Through lessons, worships and the curriculum plan we encourage behavioural change by the students to help the environment.	Sustainability Lead
4	Climate education and green careers	The curriculum at Stokes Wood is designed to teach young people about nature in their local area, for example different types of land and habitats, how they are managed, and weather patterns.	Curriculum Lead
5	Climate education and green careers	Each year the schools has Eco Warriors which help the school to renew their green flag award.	Sustainability Lead Site Manager
6	Climate education and green careers	Part of the Our Schools, Our World project ran by Leicester City and Let's Go Zero 2030.	Sustainability Lead
7	Decarbonisation	Two members of staff and a governor are Carbon Literacy trained and promote this across the school community.	Sustainability Lead
8	Climate education and green careers	At least one school trip each year includes time spent in nature or among wildlife.	Sustainability Lead
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation	Clear recycling systems in place: clear expectations on what can be recycled. Separate recycling bins clearly labelled. Recycling separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Site Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Second hand uniform shop available to parents and also involved in the Leicester City Uniform Shop	Sustainability Lead
3	Decarbonisation	Paperless communication with parents.	Office Manager
4	Biodiversity	Regular litter picks completed around school site by pupils / eco team at least weekly. Community litter picks with families each term.	Sustainability Lead
5	Climate Education and Green Careers	Hold competitions between classrooms to see who recycles the most and keeps their room tidiest.	Sustainability Lead
6	Decarbonisation	Continue to work with Plastic Clever Schools.	Sustainability Lead
7	Decarbonisation	Print release system is in place enabling users to collect prints from any device after entering a pin number and confirming the number and type of copies to reduce wasted printing.	Office Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Food			
1	Decarbonisation	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste.	Office Manager
2	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are educated about the impact of food waste on the climate and are encouraged to take action in school and at home.	Sustainability Lead
3	Climate education and green careers	Promote more vegetarian options and reduce the number of meat options / days. The menu includes at least two meat free days a week and 1 vegetarian option every day.	Office Manager
4	Biodiversity	Pupils grow food on the school allotment which is then used in gardening club and sold at the local market.	Gardening club staff
5	Climate education and green careers	Lunch time is managed to reduce queuing time and to ensure all pupils are given time to eat and time to play to reduce food waste due to pupils feeling they do not have enough time to eat.	Sustainability Lead
Air Quality			
1	Climate education and green careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike, scooter to reduce pollution near school. There is a walking bus and bike/scooter storage.	Sustainability Lead Site Manager
2	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality.	Site Manager
3	Adaptation and Resilience	Window and door maintenance plan in place to help air circulate better, improving student health and reducing their exposure to air pollution.	Office Manager Site Manager
Travel			
1	Decarbonisation	Walking bus in place to encourage walking to school, along with scooter and bike racks.	Sustainability Lead
2	Decarbonisation	Bikeability training and cycling club offered to all pupils.	PE Lead
3	Decarbonisation	Parents/Carers of pupils in Year 5 and 6 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from school.	Sustainability Lead
4	Climate Education and Green Careers	Travel questionnaire is completed annually which gives informative data. Take part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Win Spring each year.	Sustainability Lead
5	Decarbonisation	No school trips involve air travel. Transport modes for trips are considered. Trips close to school are first consideration.	Office Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Reducing Energy			
1	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders to staff to switch off all lights, appliances and plugs when not in use. Energy monitors have been nominated in each class.	Site Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Energy costs are monitored monthly and concerns investigated through Energy Sparks to ensure reduction in energy, particularly when building not in use.	Sustainability Lead Office Manager Site Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Room thermometers are used to monitor temperature levels; for heating purposes we maintain the following temperature levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18°C - 20 °C for classrooms, library and offices • 15°C for corridors, halls, washrooms and circulation areas 	Site Manager
4	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	Site Manager
5	Decarbonisation	LED lighting installed across the school and outdoor security lights are on timers, some indoor lights on sensors.	Site Manager
6	Decarbonisation	Ensure that windows are clear of displays, posters and furniture to allow the maximum amount of natural light.	Site Manager
7	Decarbonisation	Solar panels are installed to reduce the energy coming from the grid.	Site Manager
8	Decarbonisation	Power-down days are implemented twice a year to raise awareness.	Sustainability Lead Site Manager
Water			
1	Climate education and green careers	Curriculum plans include learning about local water scarcity and hazard risks to encourage a culture of saving, rather than wasting water and to encourage creative ideas for how water can be saved at school.	Curriculum Lead

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Outdoor Space			
1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school including regular forest school and/or outdoor learning sessions for every pupil	Forest School Lead Site Manager
2	Biodiversity	Planting of native trees, shrubs and other plants around the school perimeter to capture more carbon with natural solutions.	Garden Club Site Manager
3	Biodiversity	Birdbaths, feeders, bird houses, bug hotels, bee hotels, ponds all installed to support local wildlife.	Forest School Lead
4	Climate education and green careers	Students are involved in looking after our green spaces	Forest School Lead Gardening club
5	Climate education and green careers	Gardening and Forest School clubs are offered throughout the year	Forest School Lead Gardening club
6	Biodiversity	Wild patches left and wildflower areas around the site. School also takes part in 'No mow May'	Site Manager
7	Climate education and green careers	Forest School on site, sessions run by a trained practitioner providing nurture learner-led exploration and discovery, nurturing meaningful experiences for positive lifelong impacts.	Forest School Lead
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste.	Office Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used.	Office Manager
3	Decarbonisation	School use local contractors to help carbon reduction targets.	Office Manager Site Manager
4	Decarbonisation	School uniform does not have to be branded.	Sustainability lead

Section 2: Action Plan for change

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
1. Find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, especially in subjects where it may usually be absent such as PE, art or history.	Climate education and green careers	Evidence of curriculum links across subjects i.e. An art project showing the impact of climate change.	To be fully embedded by September 2027	Art Lead DT Lead Science Lead PE Lead	Curriculum is currently being reviewed so this will be looked at.
2. Teach pupils about how to reduce/eliminate single-use plastics at home.	Climate education and green careers	Children and parents understand single-use plastics and reduce using these.	To be fully embedded by September 2027	Sustainability Lead Pupil Eco council	This has been done through sustainability lessons, but it isn't fully embedded. Eco champions are making posters for the bins.
3. Increase integration of climate change into all subjects.	Climate education and green careers	Clear evidence of subject integration and regular learning of climate change	To be fully embedded by September 2025	Curriculum Lead Sustainability Lead	Curriculum is currently being reviewed so this will be looked at.
Waste					
1. Minimise the schools paper use e.g. reduce paper consumption by printing only when necessary and printing on both sides.	Decarbonisation	Printer settings are set to default to print both sides. Printing margins are decreased. Where possible homework and assignments are completed online. Move to an online dinner register to reduce paper registers.	To be fully embedded by September 2025.	Office manager IT lead Sustainability Lead	Printers were set to default double sided but this wasted paper. IT have been asked to reduce the margins on all laptops. Now have more classes so more paper being used – need to think how to reduce this further.

					Electronic dinner registers are now in place, looking at moving to electronic admission forms. Need to set a whole school of reducing schools paper usage by 10%.
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
2. Records Management system in place to reduce the amount of information saved on network drivers and on the cloud.	Decarbonisation	Information on school networks is needed and used by at least one member of staff.	To be fully embedded by September 2025	Office manager IT lead	Paper files have been reduced, and more information is stored on the cloud.
3. Review cleaning system. Reduce use of chemicals and begin using refills and reusable product bottles wherever possible. Using chemical cleaning products also has health implications, particularly for people with asthma.	Decarbonisation	Cleaning products used are refilled and reusable bottles.	To be fully embedded by September 2025	Office manager Site Manager	All cleaning products now use refilled reusable bottles.
4. Educate kitchen staff on school recycling systems.	Decarbonization	Provide kitchen with different coloured bins and clear recycling bags.	To be fully embedded by April 2025	Office manager Site Manager Kitchen staff	Kitchen staff have been educated on school recycling systems – different colored bins are now in place.
5. Batteries and ink cartridges to be disposed of effectively.	Decarbonisation	To ensure all ink cartridges disposed of effectively.	To be fully embedded by April 2025	Office manager	Recycling batteries now happens at the front office and ink categories are also recycled.
Food					

1. Encourage students and staff to bring plastic free packed lunches.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Reward system in place Reduction in waste.	Fully embedded in September 2025	Office Manager Sustainability Lead	Despite bins being in place, more work needs to be done on this and to educate families.
2. Create and promote appealing menus to reduce food waste.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Each class collects food waste and take to 'red fruit bin' for composting each day. Ensure portion sizes are correct.	April 2025	Office Manager Catering company	Portion sizes are correct but there is still a lot of waste. From August 2026 will have our own in house caterers so kitchen will oversee the menu and children will have more of a say on what is on the menu.
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
3. Look at food waste recycling within the local authority.	Decarbonisation	All food wasted on school site is recycled	September 2026	Office Manager Catering company	Local authority have sorted waste recycling although due to the amount of food wasted there bin is often full. Composting has been done. Going to look at an in-house 'Too good to go' for staff to launch in September 2026 to help reduce food waste.
4. Increase food menu to have more sustainable options.	Decarbonisation	Contact Pro-Veg and ask them to look at our school menu.	September 2026	Office Manager Catering company	This will be on track for September 2026 when school take over the kitchen and menu.
Air quality					
1. Educate students about air pollution - how they and their households can reduce their exposure to pollution (how much they breathe in)	Climate Education and Green Careers	Awareness is raised during clean air week in June and throughout the curriculum. Information sent home to	June 2025	Sustainability Lead	School celebrated clean air week in June and information was sent home but air pollution is still an

- how they can reduce their contribution to it.		parents about how they can reduce their air pollution.			issue around school.
2. Engage students, staff and parents/carers in science activities to monitor air quality levels on the school site and in the nearby areas.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Activities are in place to regularly monitor the air quality levels on the school site and local area.	June 2025	Sustainability Lead Science Lead	More work needs to be done on this.
3. Create a clean air zone around schools by implementing 'active' solutions (encouraging parents / carers to always switch off engines outside school, consider parents parking elsewhere and walking) to reduce pollution levels in and around school premises.	Adaption and Resilience	Air monitors used before and after initiative to measure impact. Posters / newsletter used to share clean air zone Eco warriors / School council to monitor parent parking	To be started by June 2025	Office Manager Sustainability Lead	More work needs to be done about this. During house day – house focusing on sustainability to make a poster about clean air and display these in the local area. Police have advised we can put cones on the zigzags – premises to look at this. Need to contact Healthy Park about park and stride – business manager to look at this.
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Travel					
1. Encourage staff and pupils to change the way they travel to school	Climate Education and Green Careers	Tokens in the hall to provide visual representation of travel modes.	Fully embedded September 2025	Sustainability Lead	Lots of work is being done on this – children in KS2 earn WOW badges. Will also take part in walk and wheel. Need to look at a travel survey for parents once new MIS system is in place.

2. To have a cycle/park and stride scheme.	Adaption and Resilience	Contact local restaurant to see if parents/staff could use their carpark.	Fully embedded September 2026	Office Manager Sustainability Lead	Not yet actioned. Business Manager will look into this.
3. Install electric vehicle charging points	Decarbonisation	Apply for transport – EVC ChargePoint and infrastructure grant	Fully embedded September 2027	Office Manager Premises officer	Not viable yet – if more staff have electric cars then this can be looked at. Will review again next year.
Energy					
1. Switch to an ethical bank	Decarbonisation	Schools bank account is ethical and isn't listed as a green wash company.	June 2026	Office Manager Local Authority	This has been investigated but local authority don't do this. Sustainability lead at the LA has been contacted about this.
2. Conduct a review of how well insulated the school building is.	Decarbonisation	Look at draughtproofing windows and doors to keep as much heat in as possible.	June 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	Survey has been completed. Wall cladding is being looked at by the council. Premises team to look at hall and gym fire doors for draft excluders.
3. Additional solar panels to be sought for school roof.	Decarbonisation	70 solar pannels to be added to the school roof once roof repairs are completed.	September 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	Solar panels have been brought. Upping the amount of solar panels and batteries – waiting for roof to be finished before this happens. Looking at September 27 for them all to be installed.
Outdoor Space					
1. To ensure no chemicals are used within our outside space to prevent harm to wildlife.	Biodiversity	Work with grounds maintenance teams to find alternatives to chemicals.	June 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	Premises are team are looking at this alongside the grounds maintenance company.

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
2. To create a Christmas tree farm on school site.	Biodiversity	For Christmas trees to be grown on school site and given to families.	Autumn 2030	Office Manager Site Manager	Christmas trees have been planted and are now growing, won't be ready until Autumn 2030.
3. To create mini ponds in the school grounds to promote wildlife.	Biodiversity	Three mini ponds to be put into the school grounds.	Autumn 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	Mini ponds have been sauces and will be put in before the summer.
4. To create a pumpkin patch on school site.	Biodiversity	For pumpkins to be grown on school site and given to families.	Autumn 2025	Office Manager Site Manager	Pumpkins were grown and this was successful. Next steps is to look at growing tomatoes and beetroot and how these can be used in school and sold to the local community.
Water					
1. Encourage staff, parents and students to use refillable water bottles / coffee cups and educate them to pour leftover water onto the garden.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Less disposables being used at events. Leftover water being re-used for plants etc.	Fully embedded in September 2025	Sustainability Lead	All staff use refillable water bottles and coffee cups. Need to look at less disposables are being used at events such as coffee mornings and school discos etc.
2. Change taps in bathrooms/toilet areas to be sensor powered to avoid taps being left on.	Adaptation and Resilience	Grant funding to replace - look at sensor options. Measurable reduction in water use.	September 2027	Office Manager Site Manager	This has been reviewed, censored toilets are in place but the censored taps break easily so it is not effective.
3. Ensure all sinks have access to plugs and staff are encouraged to not wash up under a running tap.	Adaptation and Resilience	Plugs in sinks and being used.	March 2025	Site Manager	Agreed for sinks in the classroom to have plugs – premises team to sort this.

4. Water butts used around the site to collect grey water which is then used to water allotments and plants.	Adaptation and Resilience	School community is aware of water butts on the school site and how they are used.	Fully embedded September 2025	Site Manager Gardening Lead	Water butts have been purchased but need a risk assessment and positions of these need to be decided.
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Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Procurement					
1. Review common purchases to identify more sustainable alternatives.	Decarbonisation	20% of common purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	Fully embedded in September 2025	Office Manager	Suppliers have been reviewed. Amazon now uses friendly packaging. Orders are done in bulk so grouped packaging is used. Electric vans are also used.
2. Identify factors causing emissions from your regular or high value purchases – consider transport, disposable commodities, energy and fuel use, packaging, primary and secondary waste.	Decarbonisation	20% of regular and high value purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	September 2025	Business Manager	Less school trips are happening so less buses are needed but need to consider this for trip day etc.
3. Once purchases have reached end of life, is there an alternative use? Consider take back schemes offered by some of your suppliers e.g. for furniture, recycling schemes like Olio and Freecycle or donating to local charities.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in waste / skip use More items recycled/repurposed	July 2025	Site Manager Officer Manager	Looked at this with suppliers and staff. Freecycle has been used and donated items to local charities.

Sustainability meeting – 13th February.

- Reviewed sustainability action plan from 2024 -2025 and created action plan for 2025-2026
- Following visit from Energy Sparks, NH has looked at this and reduced gas usage by a third, controls have been remapped and adjusted. Emails have been sent to staff to remind them of turning off lights/plugs etc.
- Agreed topics for ECO award –Biodiversity, Energy, School grounds or transport
- Wildlife day - 3rd March – Premises to check the hedgehog cameras and move the camera near to the badgers so footage can be shown to all children on wildlife day. MW to meet with eco champions and ask if they want to do anything for this.
- Global recycling day 18th March – Eco champions to spot check bins and present to the school in assembly on a Friday.

Send diary invite for Friday 13th March

