



STOKES WOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan

2025 – 2026

'We aim to help every child become a global ambassador, ready to explore and understand the world around them. Together, we create a caring and supportive environment where everyone can grow and succeed, ready to make a positive difference in Leicester and beyond!'

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
- Business Manager – Hazel Bramley
- Site Manager – Graham Smith
- Premises Officer – Nick Hill
- Forest School Lead – Tracey Wakeling
- PE and Active Travel Lead – Charlie Freeman
- Gardening Lead – Sally Smith
- Eco Warriors – 8 pupils Year 3-6

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 Team
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 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 Phase Leads
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
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 Team
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.	Business Manager
4	Biodiversity	Regular litter picks are completed around school site by pupils / eco team at least fortnightly. 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.	Site Team
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	Business Manager

		number and confirming the number and type of copies to reduce wasted printing.	
8	Decarbonisation	Records Management system in place to reduce the amount of information saved on network drivers and on the cloud.	Business Manager
9	Decarbonisation	Limit the amount of chemicals being used and ensure cleaning products used are refilled and in reusable bottles.	Site Team
10	Decarbonisation	School kitchen staff to follow school recycling systems and be provided with different coloured bins and clear recycling bags.	Business Manager Site Team
11	Decarbonisation	Batteries and ink cartridges to disposed of effectively and recycled.	Business Manager Site Team
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Food			
1	Decarbonisation	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste.	Business 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 meet free days a week and 1 vegetarian option every day.	Business 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	Lunchtime 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
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
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 Team
2	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality.	Site Team
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.	Site Team
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
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 Business Manager
5	Decarbonisation	No school trips involve air travel. Transport modes for trips are considered. Trips close to school are first consideration.	Business 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 Team
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 Site Team
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 Team
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 Team
5	Decarbonisation	LED lighting installed across the school and outdoor security lights are on timers, some indoor lights on sensors.	Site Team
6	Decarbonisation	Ensure that windows are clear of displays, posters and furniture to allow the maximum amount of natural light.	Site Team
7	Decarbonisation	Solar panels are installed to reduce the energy coming from the grid.	Site Team
8	Decarbonisation	Power-down days are implemented twice a year to raise awareness.	Sustainability Lead Site Team
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
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
2	Adaptation and Resilience	Ensure all toilets are powered sensors. Taps cut off after 20 seconds of usage to prevent taps being left on.	Site Team
	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 Team
2	Biodiversity	Planting of native trees, shrubs and other plants around the school perimeter to capture more carbon with natural solutions.	Gardening Club Site Team

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 Team
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
8	Biodiversity	Continue to grow pumpkins on school site and donate to local community each year.	Site Team
	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste.	Business Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used.	Business Manager
3	Decarbonisation	School use local contractors to help carbon reduction targets.	Business Manager Site Team
4	Decarbonisation	School uniform does not have to be branded.	Sustainability lead
5	Decarbonisation	Constantly review common purchases to identify more sustainable alternatives.	Business Manager
6	Decarbonisation	Look for alternative use of products when they have reached end of life. Use recycling schemes and donate to local charities to ensure more items are recycled/repurposed.	Business Manager Site Team

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	
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. Eco champions to make posters to raise awareness.	To be fully embedded by September 2027	Sustainability Lead Pupil Eco council	
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 2027	Curriculum Lead Sustainability Lead	
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Waste					
1. Minimise the schools paper use by 10% e.g. reduce paper consumption by printing only when necessary and narrowing margins	Decarbonisation	Printing margins to be decreased and set as default. Where possible homework and assignments are completed online. Move to electronic admissions forms.	To be fully embedded by September 2027.	Business Manager IT lead Sustainability Lead	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
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 2027	Business Manager Sustainability Lead	
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. Kitchen staff to create menu alongside school council.	Fully embedded in September 2026	Business Manager Kitchen staff	
3. In house 'Too good to go' for staff to launch in September 2026 to help reduce food waste.	Decarbonisation	All food wasted on school site is given to staff for a small donation.	Fully embedded in September 2027	Business Manager Kitchen staff	
4. Increase food menu to have more sustainable options.	Decarbonisation	Kitchen staff and Business Manager to ensure sustainable options are in place.	September 2026	Business Manager Kitchen staff	
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Air quality					
1. Educate students about air pollution - how they and their households can reduce their exposure to pollution (how much they breathe in) - how they can reduce their contribution to it.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Awareness is raised during clean air week in June and throughout the curriculum. Information sent home to parents about how they can reduce air pollution.	Fully embedded in September 2027	Sustainability Lead	

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.	Fully embedded in September 2027	Sustainability Lead Science Lead	
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	During house day – house focusing on sustainability to make a poster about clean air and display these in the local area. Eco warriors / School council to monitor parent parking. Site Team to purchase cones and place these on the zigzags outside of school. School to look into a park and stride.	Fully embedded in September 2027	Business Manager Sustainability Lead Site Team	
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	WOW badges in place and school take part in the big walk and wheel. Travel survey for parents to be completed once new MIS system is in place.	Fully embedded September 2026	Sustainability Lead PE/Active travel lead.	
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 2027	Business Manager Sustainability Lead	
3. Install electric vehicle charging points when more staff get electric cars.	Decarbonisation	Apply for transport – EVC ChargePoint and infrastructure grant	Fully embedded September 2028	Business Manager Premises Team	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / resultof action
Energy					
1. Improve the insulation of the school building.	Decarbonisation	Wall cladding is being looked at by the council. Premises team to look at hall and gym fire doors for draft excluders.	Fully embedded September 2028	Business Manager Site Manager	
2. Additional solar panels to be sought for school roof.	Decarbonisation	70 solar panels to be added to the school roof once roof repairs are completed.	Fully embedded September 2027	Business Manager Site Manager	
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / resultof action
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.	September 2026	Site Team	
2. To create a Christmas tree farm on school site.	Biodiversity	Christmas trees have been planted, and when they will be given to the school community.	Autumn 2030	Business Manager Site Manager	
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	Site Team	
4. To create a vegetable patch on the school site.	Biodiversity	Tomatoes and beetroot and how these can be used in school and sold to the local community.	Autumn 2027	Business Manager Site Manager	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Water					
1. Encourage 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 are being used leftover water being re-used for plants etc. Parents bring their own sustainable mug to events. Reusable cups to be used at school discos etc.	Fully embedded in September 2026	Sustainability Lead	
2. 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.	September 2026	Site Team	
3. 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. Risk assessment needs completing and position of the water butt to be agreed.	Fully embedded September 2026	Site Team Gardening Lead	
Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Procurement					
1. 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 2026	Business Manager	