



Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

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 Copthorne CE Junior School we are committed to educating pupils about the importance of respecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. We have a duty to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution and global awareness of climate change.

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.

Our climate action plan will focus on four key areas: Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency, Biodiversity, Climate education and Green skills and Climate adaptation and Resilience.

Our school community – pupils, staff, parents and the wider local community – will work collaboratively to bring this plan to life.

The Climate Action Team at Copthorne CE Junior School 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 – Helen Denison
- Premises officer – Peter Felton
- SBM – Sonsoles Garcia de Movellan
- Forest School Lead – Jeff Turner
- Governor – Anita Findon

	Action	Target/Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility
Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency	1. Complete an energy review	Asses energy consumption patterns, sources and efficiency levels. Analysing energy bills. By understanding how energy is used and wasted, we can identify actions to reduce consumption, increase efficiency and lower costs.	January 2026 – July 2026	Sustainability lead Governor
	2. Conduct a waste audit	Examine the types and amounts of waste our school produces and our waste disposal practices. Speak to our waste contractors to provide us with our overall waste tonnage and how it is disposed of.	January 2026 - July 2026	Sustainability lead Governor

Our commitment towards Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

DfE	Action	Responsibility
Decarbonisation	Clear recycling systems in place: clear expectations on what can be recycled. Recycling bins clearly labelled. Pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Premises officer
Decarbonisation	Encourage walking or riding to school. Bike and scooter racks to promote their use. Bikeability training offered to Y5 and Y6.	Sustainability lead
Decarbonisation	Staff to switch off lights, appliances and plugs when not in use. Ensure windows are clear of displays, posters and furniture, and blinds up to allow the maximum amount of natural light. Nominate energy monitors in the school to enforce this. Posters in the school	Sustainability lead SBM
Decarbonisation	Windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on to ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth	Premises officer Sustainability lead
Decarbonisation	LED lighting installed gradually across the school. Outdoor security lights on timers.	Premises officer SBM
Decarbonisation	Study the installation of solar panels	SBM
Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste	Sustainability lead
Decarbonisation	Minimise the school paper use. Set printers to print on both sides. Where possible homework and assignments are completed on line.	Sustainability lead
Decarbonisation	Move gradually to refilled and reusable cleaning products	Premises officer
Decarbonisation	All windows and doors in school are double glazed to improve thermal efficiency	SBM Premises officer
Decarbonisation	Move gradually the school to paperless communication with parents	SBM

	Action	Target/Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility
Biodiversity	1. Complete a biodiversity assessment	Identify the variety of plant and animal species in and around our setting. By doing this we will plan actions to improve the biodiversity of our setting, this will also provide an excellent learning opportunity for the children if they get involved in completing the assessment.	January 2026 – July 2026	Sustainability lead Governor

Our commitment towards Biodiversity

DfE	Action	Responsibility
Biodiversity	Install regular litter picks around the school site by pupils.	Sustainability lead
Biodiversity	Gardening club – show how to grow food	Gardening club leader
Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school including regular Forest School and outdoor learning sessions for children	Forest school leader Sustainability lead
Biodiversity	Birdbaths, feeders, bird houses, bug hotels installed to support local wildlife. Maintenance of the pond to support its wildlife.	Forest school leader Premises officer
Biodiversity	School to take part in 'No mow' initiatives from the County Council in specific selected areas of the school (no main field)	Premises officer SBM
Biodiversity	Ensure no chemicals are used within our outside space to prevent harm to wildlife. Work with our grounds maintenance to find alternatives to chemicals.	Premises officer SBM

	Action	Target/Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility
Climate education and Green skills	1. Introduce outdoors activities as part of learning	Embedding outdoor activities into current learning practices to enhance the learning experience of the children. These activities foster a deeper understanding of environmental concepts as well as build a connection and appreciation to nature, which can inspire a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship	January 2026 – July 2026	Sustainability lead School Forest Lead
	2. Promote the benefits of using outdoor learning spaces to the stakeholders	Communicate with parents, children, governors and the wider community about how outdoor learning can enhance teaching and development. Educate stakeholders on how nature-based learning supports environmental awareness and sustainability. Support and invest in outdoor education.	January 2026 – July 2026	Sustainability lead Governor

Our commitment towards Climate Education and Green skills

DfE	Action	Responsibility
Climate Education	Introduce an assembly per term focused on climate change and explaining what is the school already doing about this and how they can get involved in school and at home	Sustainability lead
Climate education	Through lessons, workshops and the curriculum plan we encourage behavioural change by the students to help the environment. Focus on food waste and the impact on the climate.	Sustainability lead
Climate education	Try that at least one school trip each year includes time spent in nature or among wildlife	Sustainability lead
Climate education	Encourage walking or riding to school. Bike and scooter racks to promote their use. Bikeability training offered to Y5 and Y6.	Sustainability lead
Climate education	Gardening and Forest Schools are offered throughout the year	Sustainability lead Forest school leader
Climate education	Encourage children and staff to bring plastic free packed lunches. Teach children how to reduce/eliminate single -use plastics at home.	Sustainability lead

	Action	Target/Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility
Climate adaptation and resilience	1. Understand the latest climate risk information and guidance	Learn about current climate hazards and how to address them. Increase our understanding of how the climate is changing in the UK, and how this will impact our setting and society. Create our Climate Risk Assessment, to help us to adapt our infrastructure, behaviour and policies as needed.	January 2026 – January 2027	Sustainability lead Governor

Our commitment towards Climate adaptation and resilience

DfE	Action	Responsibility
Climate adaptation and resilience	Reduce the risk of school closures and disruption to lessons through maintenance of building and Health and Safety walks by leaders and site officer	Sustainability lead Premises officer
Climate adaptation and resilience	Ensure the school sites can cope with more extreme weather. Annual review of building and priorities.	Sustainability lead SBM Premises officer
Climate adaptation and resilience	Provide sun shelters and Salt stores for snow/ice	Premises officer