

Climate Action Plan

Brookfield Junior Academy, Rotherham

Date: September 2025

Review Cycle: Annual (with a more substantial review every 3 years)



Purpose / Vision

To embed sustainability in everything we do, reduce our environmental footprint (particularly carbon emissions), adapt to climate change, enhance biodiversity, and equip pupils with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to act as active, informed citizens in facing the climate emergency.

Key Principles & Aims

1. **Whole-school approach** — leadership, staff, pupils, governors, parents & community involved.
2. **Education & empowerment** — climate change, sustainability, green careers as part of the curriculum.
3. **Decarbonisation & efficiency** — reducing energy, water etc.
4. **Adaptation & resilience** — preparing for changing climate effects (heat, flooding etc.).
5. **Biodiversity & environment** — improving green spaces, wildlife, local ecology.
6. **Waste reduction & sustainable consumption** — reduce, reuse, recycle.
7. **Monitoring, evaluation & continuous improvement** — using data to inform action, setting measurable targets.

Governance / Leadership Structure

Role	Responsibility
Sustainability Lead / Climate Lead - Daisy Dunning	Coordinate plan, monitor progress, liaise with staff, pupils, governors, council etc.
Senior Leadership Team	Provide strategic oversight, approve policies, allocate resources.
Governing Body	Review & endorse the plan, ensure accountability
Eco-Committee	Pupils lead ideas, carry out projects, peer education.
Premises Team	Implement operational changes (energy, maintenance etc.)
Parent & Community Liaison	Engage parents, local community & groups in projects, share progress.

Baseline & Audit

- Carry out an **energy audit** to understand current consumption, identify inefficiencies.
- Measure current carbon emissions (heating, lighting, electricity, travel, etc.).
- Audit waste production, recycling rates, water usage.
- Survey biodiversity: green spaces, trees, gardens, habitat areas.
- Assess risk of climate impacts: overheating in classrooms, flood risk etc.

Key Action Areas & Proposed Actions

Below are suggested actions under each of the main themes. You will want to select which are feasible for your school, when, and who is responsible.

Theme	Actions	Timescale / Responsible Party
Decarbonisation & Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch to LED lighting and ensure lights are turned off when rooms unoccupied. • Improve insulation (doors, windows, roof) where needed. • Install smart meters to monitor energy usage. • Investigate renewable energy options (solar panels etc.) if budget allows. • Ensure heating/cooling systems are serviced and optimised. • Use energy-efficient appliances and reduce standby consumption. 	Year 1-2 (lead: premises team & finance committee)
Water & Resource Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix leaks and ensure taps, toilets are water efficient. • Use water-saving devices. • Harvest rainwater for outdoor uses (gardening etc.). • Use dishwashers / washing machines only on full load. 	Year 1
Waste Reduction & Sustainable Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement or enhance recycling programme: paper, plastic, food waste. • Have “waste audits” in classes to see what is being thrown away, then reduce. • Reduce single-use plastics; eliminate unnecessary packaging. • Promote re-use (e.g. refill bottles, re-usable lunch containers). • Donate or recycle old equipment, uniforms etc. • Encourage walking, cycling, scooting to school; safe cycle/pump repair stations. 	Year 1-2
Travel & Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car-share schemes for staff. • Ensure school has secure bike/scooter parking. 	Year 1-3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For necessary journeys (school trips etc.), choose sustainable transport where possible. 	
Biodiversity & Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop or maintain school gardens, wildflower areas, hedges, trees. • Create habitats for pollinators (bees, butterflies etc.). • Outdoor classroom spaces to connect pupils with nature. • Partner with local nature trusts or groups for ecology projects. • Ensure grounds maintenance is biodiversity-friendly (less mowing etc.). 	Year 1 onward
Adaptation & Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess risk of overheating; install shading / ventilations etc. • Minimise flood risk around site; improve drainage if needed. • Ensure tree cover / landscaping helps reduce heat island effect. • Develop emergency plans for extreme weather events. 	Year 2-3
Curriculum, Learning & Green Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed climate change, sustainability across subjects (Science, Geography, PSHE etc.). • Use real-world projects (e.g. measuring energy use, garden design etc.). • Invite external speakers, organisations (e.g. Achieve Your Goals CIC in Rotherham) to lead workshops. • Teach children about biodiversity, ecosystems locally. • Promote awareness of green jobs and careers. 	Year 1 onward
Engagement & Culture Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish pupil eco-committee to lead and have ownership. • Staff training / CPD on sustainability & climate change. • Parent / community events to share progress, encourage uptake of sustainable behaviours at home. • Use school communications (newsletters, assemblies) to celebrate successes. • Set targets & display progress visibly in school. 	Year 1 onward
Financial & Funding Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify possible grants, funding (DfE, local authority, charities) for energy efficiencies etc. • Budget for sustainability in school planning (maintenance, upgrades etc.). • Include cost savings (from reduced energy / water) in financial tracking. 	Year 1-2
Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set measurable targets (e.g. % reduction in energy use; reduced waste volumes; number of pupils walking/cycling). • Regularly collect data (termly / half-termly) and review. • Report to governors, staff, pupils, parents on progress annually. • Adjust plan actions based on what's working / what isn't. 	Ongoing

Sample Targets

- Reduce electricity use by **10-20%** within 2 years.
- Reduce school's water usage by **15%** in 1 year.
- Increase recycling rate to **80%** of recyclable waste by end of Year 1.
- At least **50%** of pupils walking, cycling or scooting to school by Year 2.
- Plant trees / create an area of wildflower habitat by Year 2.
- All teachers receive at least one CPD session per year on climate / sustainability.

Alignment with Local / National Context

- The school will follow **DfE's Guidance: Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education**.
- Link up with **Let's Go Zero** for support and tools.
- Use local council's climate action plan as a context; Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency and aims for net-zero emissions (council by 2030; borough by 2040).
- Participate in local initiatives (e.g. *Achieve Your Goals CIC* sustainability workshops) and community ecology groups.

Key Risks & Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
Limited funding / budget constraints	Prioritise low-cost, high-impact actions; seek grants; phase major investments.
Resistance to change (staff, pupils, parents)	Clear communication, involve stakeholders; show early wins; provide training.
Lack of time in curriculum or staff capacity	Integrate sustainability into existing subjects; delegate tasks; use pupil leadership.
Technical / infrastructure limitations (e.g. building restrictions)	Conduct feasibility studies; work with local council / energy experts; explore incremental improvements.

Communication & Reporting

- Publish the Climate Action Plan on the school website.
- Use assemblies, newsletters, school council meetings to inform & update all stakeholders.
- Celebrate achievements & share case studies.

- Encourage pupils to share their work, possibly with other schools or across Rotherham.