

Elvington Church of England Primary School



Climate Action Plan

Introduction

At Elvington Church of England Primary School, we recognise our responsibility to care for the environment and reduce our contribution to climate change. This Climate Action Plan sets out our commitment to becoming a more sustainable school, whilst inspiring our pupils to be responsible stewards of God's creation.

Vision and Values

Our vision is to reduce the school's carbon footprint and embed sustainable practices across all areas of school life. Rooted in our Christian values, we seek to:

- Care for creation through responsible use of resources
- Inspire children to make environmentally conscious choices
- Work collaboratively with staff, families, and the wider community

Key Targets

By 2028, Elvington CE Primary School aims to:

- Reduce energy consumption by 25% compared to 2024 levels
- Eliminate single-use plastics from school operations
- Increase recycling and composting rates by 50%
- Ensure at least 30% of the school grounds are dedicated to biodiversity projects

Action Areas

1. Energy and Buildings

- Conduct regular energy audits
- Switch to LED lighting throughout the school
- Promote responsible energy use (switch-off campaigns)
- Explore options for renewable energy (e.g., solar panels)

2. Waste and Resources

- Expand recycling provision across all classrooms
- Introduce food waste composting
- Reduce use of single-use plastics (canteen, staff room, events)
- Develop a school-wide 'reuse and repair' initiative

3. Curriculum and Learning

- Embed climate education across subjects
- Encourage eco-themed projects and outdoor learning
- Celebrate national initiatives (e.g. Earth Day, Walk to School Week)
- Provide pupil leadership opportunities through Eco-Council

4. Biodiversity and Grounds

- Create wildlife-friendly areas (wildflower meadows, bug hotels)
- Plant trees and hedgerows to improve carbon capture
- Develop a school garden for food growing and outdoor learning
- Use grounds as an outdoor classroom to connect children with nature

5. Travel and Community

- Promote active travel (walking, cycling, scooting)
- Engage parents/carers in sustainable travel initiatives
- Work with the wider community on joint sustainability projects
- Encourage sustainable procurement from local suppliers

Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress towards our Climate Action Plan will be monitored annually by the Eco-Council and senior leadership team. Updates will be shared with governors and the wider school community.

Closing Statement

Through this Climate Action Plan, Elvington CE Primary School commits to reducing our impact on the environment and inspiring our pupils to live sustainably. Together, we can make a positive difference for future generations.

What do we believe?

The Church of England's vision of education *Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good* (2026) states: 'Good schools open up horizons of hope and aspiration and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them... rooted in God's love and compassion for all people and for the whole of creation.'

As a Christian school, we encourage our children to:

- Be responsible for themselves and others
- Respect life in all its forms
- Look for hope in difficult times or situations
- Be courageous to stand up for what we believe in
- Pray for forgiveness for the things that we have done wrong
- Love one another and the world in which we live

Therefore, our Sustainability Climate Action Plan for 2025 (and beyond) is bound by these core values as well as our common purpose to ensure all those within our school community live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) through the promotion and protection of God's World.