



CARNFORTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



Our Climate Change Education Intent:

To ensure that all staff are equipped to give our children the knowledge and tools to understand climate change, take climate action and proactively protect the environment.

What is Climate Change?

The dictionary definition is: ***A change in global or regional acclimate patterns, in particular a change apparent from mod to late 20th Century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.***

There are many factors that can make the Earth warmer and colder including:

- greenhouse gases caused by human activity,
- deforestation, where more than half of the world's surface has been ploughed and paved,
- ozone layer trapping heat closer to the Earth's surface
- different types of air pollution which have different effects on the atmosphere.

The challenge of climate change is formidable. For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth, but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field (DFE 2023).

What can we do?

The DFE has called on all education sectors to create a sustainability climate action plan to show how we, as a school community, can support national and international initiatives which are aimed at protecting the world through direct climate action. At Carnforth Community, we

have an important role to play in this, particularly reducing our environmental footprint to work towards net zero and giving all our children, young people and adults the knowledge and skills to thrive in the green economy and to help restore nature.

What do we already do?

- ✓ Curriculum reflects climate & sustainability awareness and is embedded from KS1
- ✓ Recycle paper
- ✓ Took part in Carnforth's Big Green weekend organised by the local council 2024
- ✓ Community Litter pick with Carnforth Rotary Club 2024
- ✓ Y5&6 children organised a Big Litter-pick around the local community – community involvement (parents, rotary, businesses, councillors) 2025
- ✓ Reduced use of plastic at lunch time – metal cutlery etc
- ✓ Motion sensors installed for automatic light switch off to reduce carbon footprint
- ✓ Summer term 'WOW' campaign (walk, bike, scooter, park and walk) to reduce carbon footprint
- ✓ Walk-to-School week
- ✓ Reduce carbon footprint in building through planning outdoor lessons
- ✓ Climate and sustainability projects with external agency through Global Links and Morecambe Bay Partnership
- ✓ Yearly Water Conservation talks for KS2
- ✓ Summer Term gardening club

Through our sustainability climate action plan at Carnforth Community Primary School, we will engage directly with our children to encourage them to be passionate about the natural world, encourage them to want to do their best to protect it and show them how they can influence their wider communities. Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to Year 6, our children will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.

Using the areas identified in the DFE's Sustainability and climate change strategy 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK' our sustainability and climate action plan will focus on:

1. Decarbonisation EG taking action to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient.
2. Biodiversity EG engaging with National Education Nature Park & The Wildlife Trust
3. Climate Education and Green Spaces EG knowledge rich comprehensive teaching about climate change.

It will also ensure our children will continue to:

- spend time in nature and learn more about it
- become actively involved in the improvement of their local environment
- know that regular contact with green spaces can have a beneficial impact on their physical and mental health.
- find out more about the impact of energy and water use
- see sustainability brought to life in the buildings around them, allowing them to gain experiences which will enhance and contextualise their learning.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – short-term (written with support from <https://www.transform-our-world.org/>)

Action	Steps	Timeline	Costs	Resources	Person responsible
Set up an eco-friendly/climate ambassador group	Ask for children volunteers initially from KS2	Within the first half-term	Low: Badges	Eco-ambassador badges	LC
Carbon Footprint Reduction					
Sign up for Let's Go Zero for 2030	Register online Let's Go Zero is a campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission	September 2025	Free	Let's Go Zero website	LC
Continue to promote active travel on the school run	Continue to take part in 'Living Streets' Walk to School Week Continue to promote the 'Living Streets' WOW challenge	Ongoing	No cost	WOW challenge app	All staff
Waste Reduction & Recycling					
Reduce food waste by composting fruit and vegetable waste at school. Introduce composter for each playground to dispose of fruit waste at playtime. Kitchen food separated into composting items and non-composting items. Weekly litter picks – Eco Ambassadors	1) Find a suitable site. 2) Buy a composter bin. 3) Make sure the Eco team take fruit and vegetable waste out each day and check it is not too wet or too dry. Bin to be placed on the playground for break time. 4) Turn it occasionally. Be part of National Litter Pick Week	1-3 months	Low: Price of a compost bin	Compost bin Litter pickers & recyclable rubbish bags	LC All staff - including kitchen staff Pupils

School produces plenty of fruit and vegetable waste, which if composted, can provide the means to refresh the school's growing area. It also offers opportunities to learn about decomposition.

Run a 'Plastic-free-Lunch' campaign encouraging reusable containers	Eco/Climate Club students to create posters – put around school and post on Dojo/Facebook	1-3 months	Free	Recycled paper	Eco Ambassador's
Reuse					
Raise funds for school or other causes by promoting the selling of unwanted clothes, toys, book, games etc to be reused	Make parents aware of termly events and encourage children to bring an item to promote reusing: EG When clothing is thrown away it goes to landfill sites. These landfill sites do not provide an atmosphere where clothing can biodegrade which leads to the clothing releasing harmful greenhouse gases.	End of each term	Free	Recycle 4 School help organise collections of good quality unwanted clothing by encouraging parents, students and staff to recycle their unwanted items, and make a BACS payment into your school fund within 5 working days of the collection.	Staff Friends Parents
Green Spaces & Biodiversity					
Increase our school's knowledge of biodiversity by running a regular gardening club.	Locate an area to garden. Advertise amongst pupils. Grow plants and get students involved in maintenance/harvest.		Low: Price of bulbs and seeds	Simple gardening club ideas / RHS Campaign for School Gardening Bulbs & seeds	Staff
Increase biodiversity on school property by tree planting.	1) Assess school grounds and consider the soil and how the trees will grow across their lifetime. 2) Bring in an organisation to support or, 3) Consider the equipment needed to plant the trees and	Ongoing (extra time over summer needed for watering and mulching new plants)	Low: Price of bulbs and seeds	City of Trees have a school tree planting programme and can organise a day's planting. The Woodland Trust will send schools free	Staff LC/SLT

	<p>whether they will need safe-guarding from being strimmed, trampled or eaten.</p> <p>4) Consider who will help to plant them - the whole school, or a class, or the Eco team.</p> <p>5) Consider how they will be maintained in the future.</p>			<p>packs of small tree whips.</p>	
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