

Brookland Federation

'Brookland Junior School'

Climate Action Plan



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| Date: January 2026 | Last reviewed: N/A |
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| Approved by: N/A | |
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1. Introduction - Environment & Sustainability Statement

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference.

Brookland Junior School School recognises that we have an environmental responsibility beyond the education and wellbeing of our pupils, staff, and wider school community. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our school ethos to ensure future generations are equipped for a changing climate. Our curriculum helps our pupils develop the knowledge and courage to take environmental action.

This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with the UK Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education, the DfE's Climate Action Plan Guidance

2. Vision and Objectives

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils alike.

Vision: To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2026.
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.
- Increase biodiversity within our footprint.
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.
- Increase the number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school.

3. Current Achievements

- OPAL
- Annual Clean Air Day, including a peaceful protest where parents are invited
- ECO team - for litterpicking, gardening
- LED Lighting installed throughout the school

4. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. For example, the energy audit will not only identify areas for improvement but also serve as a baseline for tracking progress. The biodiversity initiatives will be supported by local wildlife trusts, and the curriculum integration will be guided by the **National Education Nature Park** framework. We will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Core elements of our strategy

Our environmental sustainability strategy seeks to address greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, biodiversity loss and waste across our entire site, as we strive to continually strengthen our environmental practices and prepare for future climates.

| Theme | Goal / Action / Steps | Timeline for the action or expected completion date | Resources |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| Leadership and Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appoint a Sustainability Lead ● Form a Green/ECO team or similar | By May half term to continue work into next academic year | Time allocation, training |
| Energy and Carbon Decarbonisation Carbon Neutral and Net Zero | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We recognise that GHG emissions represent a significant part of our school's environmental footprint, from the electricity we use to the travel our staff, pupils and parents undertake ● We are committed to reach net-zero climate impact by 2050 in line with Hertfordshire County Councils ambition for a Net Zero county ● Conduct an energy audit ● Count the carbon website use ● The environment and sustainability will continue to be further embedded throughout the curriculum at Brookland Junior School | By the end of the academic year | Audit tools Funding |

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| Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase biodiversity – sensory garden ● We aim to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity throughout the school, by showing positive attitudes and values for the health and well-being of local habitats, plants, and animals, as well as humans ● Brookland Junior School aims to reduce its global footprint on habitats and species, both locally and globally through the conscious consumerism of natural resources ● Brookland Junior School links biodiversity work to the curriculum and encourages the use of our school grounds to introduce children to the natural environment and biodiversity, offering opportunities for outdoor education that can complement classroom-based activities | Sensory garden to be in place by Spring 2026 | Cost of planting beds, sensory resources for the garden |
| Active and sustainable Travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We encourage walking, wheeling, and cycling as these are the least carbon-intensive ways to travel. More active travel will also make roads quieter, safer and more attractive for people to walk, wheel and cycle ● Brookland Junior School aims to reduce transport emissions by encouraging a mode shift to walking, wheeling, and cycling. ● Develop a school travel plan with the aim of increasing pupils' health and activity levels, making the roads around Brookland Junior School safer and improving the local environment by reducing air and noise pollution. This document will be reviewed every 2 years from the publication of the last final version ● Incentives - Walk to school weeks | Ongoing | None |
| Air quality / Cleaner Air | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addressing air pollution can provide immediate and tangible benefits for people and communities, while also accelerating climate change efforts ● We aim to reduce air pollution from our own operations ● Tackle air pollution at the school gate, including the school run | Ongoing | None |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educate the next generation to help them and their families make cleaner air choices. https://www.transform-our-world.org/programmes/clean-air-for-schools ● We will support the school community to engage with walking, wheeling, and cycling which will decrease congestion, air, and noise pollution | | |
| <p>Waste consumption and recycling</p> <p>Reducing waste / Food waste</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2021, approximately 2.5 million metric tons of plastic packaging waste was created by households in the United Kingdom, with only 44 percent being recycled. As a school community, we are committed to reducing waste across our school site ● We aim to reduce waste generation at the source and seek to minimise the waste we send to landfill ● We promote reuse and recycling, as well as the use of supplies that are recycled and recyclable and whose production and use minimise the consumption of natural resources. Specifically, we aim to remove all single-use plastics, use environmentally friendly paper, and recycle where possible, including plastics and large electronic equipment ● We encourage our staff and pupils to drive initiatives to reduce waste, including sorting and recycling materials, donating used technology equipment, and reducing food | Ongoing | Bins Signage |

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, Brookland Junior School will:

- Review the plan annually (add month in year), led by the Sustainability Lead and site staff.
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement).
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through informal discussions.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

6. Future Achievements Log

This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress.

| Date | Achievement | Impact | Next Steps |
|------|-------------|--------|------------|
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7. Support and Resources

In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share ideas/best practices. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-changestrategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-andchildrens-services-systems>

DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainabilityleadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>

Let's Go Zero Campaign: <https://www.letsgozero.org/> -

National Education Nature Park: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

8. Conclusion

By taking a proactive approach to climate action, Brookland Junior School is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow. This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our pupils, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.