



Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan 2025

At St George's, we know that sustainability is all about giving children the opportunities, skills, and support they need to take control of their school environment and the wider world beyond. We know that 'Anything is possible for one who believes' and we believe that we can all make changes to support the planet. We want to empower our children so they can contribute in the best possible way, through taking responsibility for their own school, the wider local community and surroundings and the global community. As part of the DfE requirements, our school climate action plans include at least one action from the four key areas. The four key areas set out by the DfE are:

1. Decarbonisation
2. Adaptation and resilience
3. Biodiversity
4. Climate education and green careers

St George's Primary School recognises that the following are in place and seeks to continue with this best practice. The areas we are working on can be found at the end of this assessment. Our climate change team consists of (but is not limited to):

- Izzy Lewis - Headteacher / Sustainability Lead
- Pauline Kenny – Finance and Resources Manager
- Tasha Griggs – DHT/ Curriculum lead
- Helena Roche – Science Lead
- Deepak Thakur – Premises Officer
- Eco team/ School Council

No/	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate education and green careers	Through lessons, and the curriculum plan we encourage behavioural change by the students to help the environment for example in our YR and Y1 locality topics.	Curriculum lead
2	Climate education and green careers	We continue to seek out good practice to get inspired and share learning with other education settings on learning about climate change.	Curriculum lead
3	Climate education and green careers	We encourage students to reduce single-use plastics, providing water bottles for our children and also encouraging them to reuse plastic containers for cookery lessons.	Teaching team
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation	Clear recycling system in place for paper: waste paper, food waste, metal and batteries separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Finance and Site team
2	Decarbonisation	Second hand uniform available for free for parents every term – unclaimed lost property and donations	Finance team
3	Decarbonisation	Paperless communication with parents at every opportunity	Finance team

4	Biodiversity	Regular litter picks completed around school site by site team and pupils	Finance and Site team
Food			
1	Decarbonisation	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste which is recycled separately and collected weekly.	Finance and Site team
2	Climate education and green careers	Promote more vegetarian options through Caterlink menu, at least one vegetarian option available each day and two on some days.	Headteacher
3	Climate education and green careers	Lunch break timings are sensitively managed to reduce queuing time and to ensure all pupils are given time to eat and time to play to reduce food waste due to pupils feeling they do not have enough time to eat.	Headteacher
4	Climate education and green careers	Meals are managed in a way which means pupils can make a selection in advance with parent support – ensuring they are choosing something they want to eat, alongside reducing wastage of over cooking through pre-orders.	Headteacher
5	Climate education and green careers	A lunchtime salad bar option encourages pupils to try more healthy foods. All are growable in the UK.	Headteacher
Air Quality			
1	Climate education and green careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike or scooter to reduce pollution near school.	DHT
2	Climate education and green careers	There is a bike rack in the playground.	Headteacher
3	Climate education and green careers	Portsmouth encourages 'No idling' around schools preventing harmful fumes.	PCC
4	Climate education and green careers	The city of Portsmouth itself is a CAZ (Clear Air Zone) https://cleanerairportsmouth.co.uk/clean-air-zone-caz/ and charges for Non-Compliant vehicles.	PCC
5	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality.	DHT
Travel			
1	Decarbonisation	Bike rack in playground supports pupils keeping their bikes safely in school after travelling.	Premises Officer
2	Decarbonisation	Bikeability / Learn to Ride training offered to pupils in Year 5 / 6	DHT
3	Decarbonisation	Parents/Carers of pupils in KS2 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from school.	DHT
Reducing Energy			
1	Decarbonisation	Reminders to staff (via email / signs) to switch off all lights, appliances and plugs when not in use.	All staff

2	Decarbonisation	Energy costs are monitored and concerns investigated	Finance Manager
3	Decarbonisation	The school heating is controlled on a timer to reduce the length of time the heating is on for.	Finance Manager and Site Team
4	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	Finance Manager and Site Team
5	Decarbonisation	Some corridor and toilet lights are set on timers to reduce usage.	Finance Manager and Site Team mises Officer
6	Decarbonisation	LED lighting installed in some parts of the premises.	Finance Manager and Site Team
Outdoor Space			
1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school including for both curriculum and regulation work.	All staff
2	Biodiversity	Forest Schools training underway for Science Lead	Science Lead
3	Biodiversity	Bug hotel wildlife spots in place to support local wildlife – these are mostly within our Science Garden which is currently a wild-space.	Site team and Science Lead
4	Biodiversity	StGBS has a school pond which supports the biodiversity of our school. The pond is home to frogs and newts.	Site team and Science Lead
5	Biodiversity	Planting of trees, shrubs and other plants on school grounds to capture more carbon with natural solutions.	Site team and Science Lead
6	Biodiversity	Wild patches left and wild flower areas around the site	Site team and Science Lead
7	Biodiversity	Where possible we do not use any chemicals within our outside space to help wildlife.	Site team
Water			
1	Climate education and green careers	Taps are auto turn off throughout the school to reduce water usage.	Site team
2	Climate education and green careers	A large bowl of warm water is left for pupils to wash their cups in rather than using a running tap	Kitchen Team

3	Climate education and green careers	Undrunk water from the end of the day is used to water school plants.	All staff
4	Climate education and green careers	All staff and children are encouraged to use refillable water bottles.	All staff
5	Climate education and green careers	The school dishwasher is only put on once per day and only when full.	Site team
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Minimal resources are purchased – this supports a reduction in wastage.	Finance team
2	Decarbonisation	Resources that are no longer suitable for use in school are recycled, repurposed or rehomed.	Finance team and Headteacher
3	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used, though this is not always possible due to financial constraints.	Finance team

Action Plan for change

Action	DfE Link	Target	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
Promoting green careers to pupils	Climate education and green careers	Highlight 'green careers' in Climate/Environment Assembly Pupils can name/consider some green careers	July 2026	Headteacher with Governor Rep	
Gardening/Site Club offered throughout the year.	Climate education and green careers	Gardening/Site Club offered at least once a week throughout the year.	July 2026	Site Manager	
Waste					
Consider if the addition of the new food waste bin may allow for a reduction in general waste collection	Decarbonisation	Reduce main bin collection due to reduced waste	December 2025	HT and Finance	
Provide recycling opportunities for Further products i.e. Tera-cycling and clothes recycling.	Decarbonisation	Additional recycling stations at school School encouraging community to recycle clothing and fabric.	April 2026	HT and Finance	
Food					
Encourage students and staff to bring single use plastic free lunches.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Develop understanding of importance of reducing plastic in the environment – highlighted in Climate / Environment Assembly. Reduction in waste	April 2026	Science Lead	
Develop the school science garden area to grow vegetables that can be used by the school kitchen or for snacks.	Decarbonisation	Pupils growing at least three different types of vegetables in the school garden which can be used by school or ASC.	July 202	Science Lead	

Air quality

Given our locality we are 98% walk or cycle to school. As children transition to secondary and travel further afield, encourage the use of public transport and cycling to improve air quality.

Climate Education and Green Careers

Main the number of children cycling or walking to secondary.
Pupils can use the bus or train and know how to access these.

July 2026

Year 6 team

Travel

Reduce travel emissions on school trips.

Decarbonisation

Consider transport modes for trips and use the best possible option realistically.

Sept 2025

Finance Manager

Energy

Energy costs are monitored and concerns investigated – including regular use of energy viewer to ensure reduction in energy, particularly when building not in use.

Decarbonisation

Closer monitoring of energy usage in school leading to reduction in the amount of energy usage.

Sept 2025

Finance Manager

Shared site nursery pays for the appropriate usage. This makes it much clearer to those enquiring that our costs are the running figures for 2 sites.

Decarbonisation

Evaluate the solar panel installation. Reduction in energy usage from the grid

Sept 2025

Finance Manager and Headteacher

Use and refer regularly to the schools ACES Team energy checklist and Energy Saving Guide - <https://ace-schools.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ACES-energy-efficiency-checklist-Fin al.pdf>

Decarbonisation

Closer monitoring of energy usage in school leading to reduction in the amount of energy usage.

Sept 2025

Finance Manager and Headteacher

Outdoor Space

Continue to plant trees and flowers to absorb more CO2 from the atmosphere.	Adaption and Resilience	Increase the amounts of trees and flowers on school site leading to higher absorption of CO2 in environment.	July 2025	DHT Forest School Lead	
Water					
Water Butts are purchased to collect water for planting.	Decarbonisation	Spare or excess water plus rainfall is collected and reused appropriately	Jan 2026	Site Manager	
Procurement					
Review common purchased to identify more sustainable alternatives ie. Paper.	Decarbonisation	15% of common purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	Jan 2026	Finance Manager	