Burton Agnes CE Primary School Climate and Sustainability Plan

At Burton Agnes CE Primary School, we encourage our children to become passionate about the natural world around them, demonstrating to them how they can protect the world and influence their wider community.

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. 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 activities and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing the children to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field.

As a school, we have an important role to play in this, particularly reducing our environmental footprint to work towards net zero and giving all children, young people and adults the knowledge and skills to thrive in the green economy and to help restore nature. One of our school values is 'care' and we need to do this to our planet. Our biblical underpinning talks about building on firm foundations. Teaching children about how they can make a change from an early age and make this second nature as they live their lives will further protect our world.

Through our sustainability climate action plan, we will engage directly with children and young people who are passionate about the natural world, who want to do their best to protect it and 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, translating this knowledge into positive action and solutions.
Using the four 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** e.g. acting to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient.
2. **Adaptation and Resilience** e.g. acting to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating.
3. **Biodiversity** e.g engaging with national and local organisations.
4. **Climate Education and Green Careers** e.g. knowledge rich comprehensive teaching about climate change.

It will also include:
Creating an environment - from an early age - where children can connect to nature. We will ensure our children will:

- 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.

Burton Agnes CE Primary School – What steps are we taking?

Education, grounds & community	Operational, sustainability & carbon footprint
Friendship care and trust values Biblical underpinning – building on firm foundations Science curriculum Geography curriculum - golden threads Dave Rockett workshops termly Design & Technology curriculum Guided Reading texts Careers Framework Nature parks engagement to develop biodiverse area for curriculum work Bulb planting Seasonal walks Harvest collection for community Foodbank collection Compost bin Leaf compound Mini-beasts hotel	Locally sourced milk Low level and energy efficient lighting Limited heating in communal spaces New insulation in roof Removed water coolers Recycling bins in each class Recycling bins in communal areas and communal areas Brown food bins Worm bins for fruit etc Water butts on downpipes. Paper free communications to parents. Park and stride at Burton Agnes Hall

Sustainability Lead	Helen Jameson	**Date of Plan**	2025 - 2027

Our school action plan will:

- create a culture that prioritises sustainability,
- increase the confidence and expertise of our school community in understanding climate change and how positive change can be achieved,
- help children to develop skills and knowledge which help them to contribute to sustainability and climate change in their lives and future jobs,
- increase resilience and start adapting to the impacts of climate change,
- share effective practice with others and create a cluster learning network,
- improve energy and water efficiency,
- calculate our carbon emissions and identify ways to reduce them,
- reduce operating costs,
- enhance biodiversity.

We aim for our children to

- enhance their enthusiasm to help drive positive change,
- increase their practical knowledge of sustainability and climate change,
- create a sense of pride in the setting, community and wider world,
- share their knowledge and enthusiasm in the local community and beyond,
- engage their parents, carers, and wider community in sustainability and climate change.

Area 1	Decarbonisation - calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient.
Area 2	Adaptation and resilience, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating.
Area 3	Improving the environment and biodiversity.
Area 4	Climate education and green careers, such as ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff and lecturers feel supported to offer this.

Area 1

Decarbonisation - calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient.				
Action	Steps	Timescale	Resources	Review
Look at ways to reduce the number of people that travel to school in the car	School Council to promote and organise a range of events that can be built upon each year. Conduct surveys on how the children travel to school and create plans to promote walking to school. Encouragement of drive and walk. Car sharing and park and stride in the summer months Scooter training with ERYC Encourage scootering to school with parents	Summer 26	ERYC road safety team Burton Agnes Hall Car park	
Energy usage review	Complete an energy audit - Create a plan from findings.	Aut 26 – Spr 27 Aut 25 – Sum 27	Count Your Carbon	

	Replace lighting - old fittings with new LED and replace areas with lamps. Increase insulation in school roof	Aut 25 – Aut 26 Aut 25	Energy-walkabout-guide (Southwark)	
Establish Eco team	Review if part of School Council or a new group. Group to promote recycling and collection of bins from classrooms to a central store. Promote the turning of lights off/ recycling etc.	Aut 26	Eco Schools How to do a plastic waste audit Plastic Free July	
Outdoor learning	Create spaces for outdoor learning that improve biodiversity	Autumn 25	Nature parks Grant Lisset wind farm grant	

Area 2				
Adaptation and resilience, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating.				
Action	Steps	Timescale	Resources	Review
Replacing surfaces in areas around school to aid water drainage.	Foundation area – gravel Add water butts and gravel outside heads office	Aut 25 – Spr 26 Aut 25 Aut 25 – Sum 26		
Refurbishments of toilets	Create a plan of refurbishment of the toilets across school to be more energy and water efficient. Initially Top toilets near cloakroom and playground	Aut 25 – Sum 27		

Area 3				
Improving the environment and biodiversity.				
Action	Steps	Timescale	Resources	Review
To welcome more mini beasts, birds and bees into the school grounds	Complete the development of the biodiversity areas funded by Nature parks Grant and lisset windfarm	Autumn 25 – spring 26		
Engage with the National Education Nature Park study	Investigate if we are eligible to take part in the scheme. Register to NENP. Review local funding.	Aut 25 Spr 26 Aut 25 – Sum 27		
Review the composting of food in school.	Purchase new fruit bins for playgrounds. FOBAS Purchase a wormery for playground. Engage in food recycling with the LA. Review food wastage in the dining room.	Spring 2026 Sum 26 Aut 25 – Sum 26		

Area 4	Climate education and green careers, such as ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff and lecturers feel supported to offer this			
Action	Steps	Timescale	Resources	Review
Develop Careers Framework to ensure professionals from the environment and green careers are included.	Create a CF visitors list to ensure a wider range of professionals are included.	Sum 26		
To educate children and parents about climate change	Continue to strengthen opportunities to work with Dave Rocket Northern gas	Autumn 25		
Look at impact of climate change on locality	Work with Coastal erosion representatives	Summer 26		