Harehills Primary School



Climate Action Plan

Approved by:	Judy Wood	**Policy Date:** October 2025	
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Staff Responsible:	Rob Quirk		

Harehills Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2026-27

Our Vision:

At Harehills Primary School, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we're excited to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at Harehills Primary School to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

Decarbonisation

Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Implement a 'switch-off' campaign	RQ School Councillors	**Identify new School Councillors:** Autumn 1. **Plan and implement campaign:** Autumn 2.	A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions and real-time energy monitoring can make energy efficiency a long-term habit.	Reduction in electricity bills and a lower amount of carbon emissions. Every class appoints weekly Energy Monitors. Termly classroom audit shows lights, screens and boards are switched off when not in use.	

Adaptation & Resilience

Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Plan a school-wide energy reduction challenge	School council	Autumn 2 (after Eco Warriors initiative is in place)	Engaging pupils and staff in an energy-saving challenge builds awareness and encourages sustainable habits. Understanding the connection between climate change and energy use, improvement of data handling and problem-solving skills, understanding how to reduce CO2 emissions at home and in school.	Staff are more aware of their energy usage habits and children begin to encourage energy conservation at home and at school due to the correlation with CO2 emissions.	
Set Up a School Resilience Committee (Eco Warriors) - Whole school assembly on climate change - Energy audit	School Council	Autumn term	Establishing a resilience committee (Eco Warriors) ensures ongoing adaptation to environmental challenges. This team, composed of pupils, staff, and (possibly) community members, can assess risks, implement sustainability policies, and coordinate resilience projects.	Regular meetings will help track progress and adjust strategies as needed.	
Introduce a paper reduction campaign	SLT Office staff Teachers	Autumn 2	Reduces paper consumption and printing costs while promoting digital solutions where appropriate.	Reduce photocopying paper orders by 10% compared to the previous academic year.	
Expand recycling education through Classroom Champions	Eco Warriors Teachers Site Team	Autumn 2 onwards.	**Useful links:** Simpler Recycling for Schools - Zone Builds on existing recycling procedures and improves pupil understanding of what can be recycled.	Each class receives a recycling reminder poster and completes one recycling-focused activity each term.	

Biodiversity					
Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Develop a pollinator-friendly area	Eco Warriors Site Team DM's gardening club?	Spring term	Supports biodiversity and creates a visible sustainability project within school grounds.	Create and maintain one dedicated wildflower or pollinator-friendly area on the school site. Allow areas of wildflowers to grow to create habitats for wildlife and reduce the need for mowing therefore reducing petrol usage in the lawnmower/ strimmer. The area of grass at the edge of the carpark (Near Luxor 2 and Luxor 3) could be a perfect area for this.	
Seasonal 'Nature Improvement Days'	Eco Warriors Staff Volunteers	One per term	Enables more pupils to participate than a small gardening club and requires less ongoing staffing.	Complete at least three nature improvement projects during the year (planting bulbs, seed sowing, habitat creation, etc.).	
Nature Connection, Wellbeing and Outdoor Learning					
Establish a Fortnightly Forest School Programme	Forest School Lead, Teachers SLT	Identify children weeks 1 – 2 Autumn 1, roll out immediately	Provides targeted outdoor learning opportunities for pupils who would benefit most from increased wellbeing, confidence-building and engagement. Develops a connection with nature, promotes environmental stewardship and supports understanding of climate and sustainability.	Run fortnightly sessions for a targeted group of pupils throughout the academic year. Gather pupil voice before and after the programme to measure engagement, confidence and attitudes towards nature. Initially, 12 children per term will participate.	
Link Forest School Learning to Sustainability Themes	Forest School Lead, Eco Warriors	Throughout the year	Helps pupils understand biodiversity, habitats, weather, seasons, climate change and sustainable living through practical experiences.	Every Forest School block includes at least one activity linked to biodiversity, conservation or climate action.	

Create Young Environmental Ambassadors	Forest School Lead, Eco Warriors	Summer Term	Encourages participants to share their learning across school and become role models for sustainability.	Forest School participants contribute to a school display, assembly, Eco Warrior project or Sustainability Week activity.	
Research consistently shows that regular experiences in nature improve wellbeing, resilience, confidence and engagement in learning. Through fortnightly Forest School sessions, targeted pupils will develop a stronger connection with the natural environment whilst learning about biodiversity, sustainability and climate action through hands-on experiences. The programme will support both pupil wellbeing and the school's wider climate education objectives.					

Climate Education & Green Skills					
Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Create a School Eco Committee (part of the Eco Warriors' remit)	RQ	Utilise Forest School sessions from Autumn term and include School Councillors if possible	A school eco committee (Eco Warriors) gives pupils the opportunity to lead sustainability projects, influence school policies, and advocate for environmental improvements. This initiative fosters leadership, encourages responsibility, and ensures sustainability remains a core focus in school decision-making.	Regular meetings will help track progress and adjust strategies as needed.	
Climate action challenges in classrooms	Class Teachers Eco Warriors	One challenge per term initially (could increase to half-termly)	Embeds sustainability into everyday school life without relying on travel initiatives.	Every class completes at least one climate-related challenge each half term (energy saving, litter reduction, biodiversity, recycling, etc.).	
Climate and Sustainability Week	Eco Warriors School Council SLT	Summer term	Creates a high-profile whole-school focus on environmental action.	Deliver a themed week including assemblies, outdoor learning, biodiversity activities and pupil-led campaigns.	