



Harehills Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2025



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)
Run a switch-off campaign	RQ Eco Warriors	Organise and set up Eco Warrior club: Autumn 1. Plan and implement campaign: Spring term.	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.	
Travel Survey	HM RQ All teachers	Survey: July 2025	A travel survey helps schools gather data on pupil and staff commuting habits. By understanding travel patterns, schools can identify opportunities to encourage more sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport. This information can support decisions on bike rack installations, road safety improvements, and incentive programs for eco-friendly commuting.	Make the front of school and routes into school safer and increase the amount of children (and staff) walking/ cycling/ scooting (or carpooling) to school wherever possible.	

Adaptation & Resilience

Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Plan a school-wide energy reduction challenge	School council/ Eco Warriors (once up and running)	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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whole school assembly on climate change - Energy audit 	RQ (+1) to invite and run Eco Warriors club (fortnightly if possible)	Organise and set up Eco Warrior club: Autumn 1.	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.	
Use Refillable Whiteboard Markers and Stationery	CS Budget holders SLT?		Many standard whiteboard markers and pens are single-use, contributing to plastic waste. Schools can transition to refillable options, reducing landfill waste and lowering procurement costs in the long run. Refillable stationery is also often made from sustainable materials, further reducing environmental impact.	Less money spent on whiteboard pens/ stationery in the long run. Classroom stationery budgets should see an improvement over the year.	
Review current waste and recycling procedures	Steven Wood Anthony Mackie All cleaning staff All teachers		Useful links: Simpler Recycling for Schools - Zone Talk to waste company. What can be recycled. Recycling bins in class – correct use of - by classroom users and disposal of - by cleaning staff.	To ensure that waste is correctly collected and recycled by external companies.	

Biodiversity

Action	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Benefit / Impact	Target/ Measure	Progress (reviewed termly)
Get a compost bin to reduce food waste	Kitchen staff Lunchtime staff		<p>Composting helps reduce landfill waste while creating nutrient-rich soil for school gardens. Schools should consider site suitability, maintenance requirements, and pest prevention strategies. Composting can also be incorporated into science lessons, providing pupils with hands-on learning about decomposition and soil health. Schools with kitchen facilities can work with catering teams to compost food scraps, further reducing waste.</p> <p>Useful links: https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/COMPOST-RGB-2021.jpg</p> <p>Composting fruit waste with an understanding of why and using the resulting soil to teach with</p>	Catering team - Composting kitchen waste and Meal choices – influenced by the festival model of choices having a carbon footprint weighting added to menu – info to go on school website	
Start a gardening club	Volunteer(s) to run a gardening club (can be afterschool or lunchtime)	<p>Plan in place, club leader identified: Autumn term.</p> <p>Implement: Spring term.</p>	A gardening club provides pupils with hands-on experience in growing flowers, vegetables, and trees, while also teaching them about sustainability, soil health, and biodiversity. Gardening improves mental well-being, fosters teamwork, and enhances outdoor learning opportunities. Schools can use gardens to produce food, beautify the environment, and engage pupils in long-term eco-friendly initiatives.	<p>Gardening Club up and running (aim to find a member of the community to help) / connecting growing food to the cooking strand of DT i.e. growing the ingredients that are used in the recipes.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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 +1	Organise and set up Eco Warrior club: Autumn 1.	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.	
Launch a Sustainable Commute Challenge (utilising the 'WOW walk to school travel tracker')	RQ All teachers	Introduce/trial: September 2025 Implement fully: January 2026	Schools can organise competitions and incentives to promote walking, cycling, or public transport use instead of cars. This helps cut emissions, reduce traffic congestion, and encourage healthier lifestyles. Students are more conscious about the way they get to school Useful links: Living Street Travel Tracker https://www.traveltracker.org.uk/en-gb/accounts/classroom-login/?next=/en-gb/	To ensure that at least 70% of travel to and from school is made through sustainable means. Are more children walking to school than before? Discuss health benefits as well as environmental implications.	
Organise a 'Walk to School' Week	RQ SLT	Decide on a week: Autumn term 2025 Implement: Summer term 2026	Encouraging pupils and staff to walk, bike, or use public transport instead of driving can reduce emissions and improve local air quality. A Walk to School Week helps raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of active travel.	More children walking to school (or cycling, scooting, etc.) in this week. Can this behaviour become a habit? Could this be extended to a 'Climate Week' where we have switch-off days, more outdoor learning, forest school sessions? Link to Disconnect to Reconnect?	