

Sustainability & Climate Change

At High Green Primary School, sustainability and climate change education are an important part of our commitment to preparing children for the future. We want our pupils to grow up as responsible, informed and hopeful citizens who understand how to care for our planet and their local environment.

Our work reflects our school vision “To become the best version of ourselves” and supports children’s personal development, leadership skills and sense of responsibility.

Our Commitment to Sustainability

We are proud to be part of the Let’s Go Zero campaign, committing to taking action to reduce our carbon footprint and embed sustainability across school life.

- Our Climate Action Plan focuses on:
- Reducing carbon emissions and energy use
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Preparing for climate change and extreme weather
- Embedding climate education across the curriculum
- Developing pupil leadership and green skills

Energy & Carbon Reduction

We are actively working to improve the energy efficiency of our school buildings and reduce our environmental impact.

Our actions include:

- Monitoring and reducing energy use through behaviour change campaigns
- Reviewing heating and energy efficiency practices across the school
- Completing a thermal audit supported by the Tomorrow’s Climate Scientists programme, including the use of thermal imaging to identify heat loss
- Working with Sheffield City Council’s Built for Change programme, with plans for solar panels to be installed in 2027 as part of a funded project

These actions help us make informed decisions and plan for long-term sustainability improvements.

Biodiversity & Our Green Spaces

Our school is fortunate to have a range of high-quality green spaces which are used daily for learning, wellbeing and play.

We are proud to have been awarded the Rewilding Award in recognition of our commitment to biodiversity and outdoor learning.

Our biodiversity work includes:

- Woodland and outdoor learning areas
- A thriving school allotment
- Forest School provision across the school
- Wildlife-friendly planting and habitats
- Planting 60 new trees to further enhance our woodland and support carbon capture

These spaces support both environmental education and children’s wellbeing.

Forest School & Outdoor Learning

Forest School is an important part of life at High Green Primary School. Sessions are delivered regularly across different classes and support:

- Confidence and resilience
- Teamwork and problem-solving
- Respect for nature
- Emotional wellbeing
- Outdoor learning opportunities are embedded across the wider curriculum wherever possible.

Pupil Leadership: Climate Ambassadors

Our Climate Ambassadors play a key role in leading sustainability work across school.

They:

- Support energy-saving campaigns
- Work with visiting climate specialists
- Share learning with other pupils through assemblies and class activities
- Help shape future sustainability priorities
- This gives pupils real responsibility and a voice in shaping their school environment.

Working with Experts & Partners

We work closely with external organisations to strengthen our sustainability work, including:

- The Tomorrow's Climate Scientists programme, providing expert-led visits and hands-on learning
- Sheffield City Council sustainability teams
- Regional EcoTeach and sustainability networks
- These partnerships help ensure our work is ambitious, informed and future-focused.

Climate Education & the Curriculum

Climate change and sustainability are woven through our curriculum in age-appropriate ways. Children learn about:

- Caring for the environment
- Climate change and energy
- Food, waste and recycling
- Nature and biodiversity
- Learning is practical, meaningful and linked to real-life actions within school.

Governance & Strategic Oversight

Our Governing Board plays an active role in overseeing sustainability and climate change work. Governors receive regular updates and take part in dedicated briefings to ensure strong strategic oversight and accountability.

Looking Ahead

We are proud of the progress we have already made, but we recognise that sustainability and climate education is an ongoing journey.

Over the coming months, our priorities include:

- Continuing to deliver and review our Climate Action Plan
- Expanding opportunities for renewable energy, including the planned installation of solar panels (2027)
- Further enhancing our green spaces and woodland areas
- Making full use of our school allotment, with children actively involved in planting, growing and caring for produce throughout the year
- Continuing to develop Forest School provision through regular use of our woodland, secret garden and field, supporting outdoor learning, pupil wellbeing and the development of positive attitudes towards nature through purposeful outdoor experiences.
- Providing hands-on learning experiences through the allotment, helping children understand where food comes from, how it grows and how to care for the environment

We would like to recognise and thank our allotment volunteers, who have worked tirelessly since September to prepare and develop the allotment area for our children. Their commitment has made it possible for pupils to begin using the space for meaningful, practical learning.

Together, we are working towards a more sustainable future for our children and our wider community.

 [Want to know more?](#)

Our full Climate Action Plan is available below.

If you would like to support our sustainability work or get involved, please contact the school office.