SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Turning priorities into action. Building resilience.
Preparing for the future.



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL

INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

This policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework
and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures and guidance.

RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE

OUR COMMITMENT

At Riverside Bridge School, every policy reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and ambitious school community in which every pupil is valued, every voice matters and every family is respected and supported.

Our policies translate our values into consistent practice. They support high expectations, clear responsibilities, effective partnership and informed decision-making, ensuring that the needs, rights, wellbeing and future outcomes of our pupils remain at the heart of our work.

We work collaboratively, act with integrity and continually reflect upon and improve our practice to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Our Policy Principles underpin how we work together and guide the decisions and actions we take to support every pupil and their families.



POLICY PURPOSE & FRAMEWORK

Riverside Bridge School policies set out the expectations, responsibilities and approaches that support safe, consistent and high-quality practice across the school. They translate our values, statutory responsibilities and professional expectations into clear guidance for everyday decision-making and practice.

Each policy forms part of the Riverside Bridge School Policy Framework and should be read alongside any related policies, procedures, statutory guidance and school frameworks referenced within the document.

Policies apply to the members of the school community identified within each document, including staff, governors, parents and carers, volunteers, contractors and other professionals where relevant. Everyone is expected to understand and apply the requirements appropriate to their role and to seek further guidance where clarification is required.

CURRICULUM DRIVERS



Our Drivers provide a shared golden thread across curriculum, school life, policy and leadership, helping ensure that our decisions and practice remain focused on the experiences and futures we want for every pupil.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This Sustainability Action Plan sets out the practical actions through which Riverside Bridge School will deliver the commitments established within the Sustainability Leadership Policy. It identifies the priorities, responsibilities, success measures and review arrangements that will guide the school's work to improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

At Riverside Bridge School, sustainability is approached in a practical, inclusive and proportionate way. As a specialist school for pupils with complex SEND, we recognise that environmental improvement must support, rather than compete with, safe and effective provision, accessibility, pupil wellbeing and high-quality education. The plan is organised around the Department for Education's four sustainability priority areas: adaptation and resilience; biodiversity and nature; climate education and green skills; and decarbonisation and net zero. Actions are designed to be achievable within the school's operational context and to provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop knowledge, independence and responsible participation appropriate to their individual needs. This is a live plan. Progress will be reviewed regularly and actions may be updated in response to completed priorities, emerging risks, changes in national guidance or developments within the school estate and curriculum.

Our responsibilities to pupils and the school community

Riverside Bridge School will:

- maintain a clear and current Climate Action Plan;
- identify proportionate and achievable sustainability priorities;
- assign clear responsibility for agreed actions;
- monitor progress against measurable success criteria;
- ensure sustainability initiatives are inclusive and accessible to pupils with complex SEND;
- embed sustainability within curriculum, Preparation for Adulthood and wider school life;
- consider climate resilience and environmental impact within estate and operational planning;
- involve staff, pupils and the wider school community where appropriate;
- review and update the plan regularly to reflect progress and changing priorities.

Through these commitments, Riverside Bridge School will ensure that sustainability is translated into practical and achievable action across the school. We aim to strengthen environmental responsibility and climate resilience while providing meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and experiences that will support their participation, independence and future lives.

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APPROVED BY:
Governing Board

APPROVED ON:
September 2026

REVIEWED DUE ON:
September 2027

Section 01

INTRODUCTION

Turning strategy into action. Setting clear priorities.

This Climate Action Plan sets out how Riverside Bridge School will implement the strategic commitments contained within the Sustainability Leadership Policy.

The plan establishes the school's priorities for improving environmental sustainability, increasing climate resilience and supporting pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for a sustainable future.

It reflects the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plan guidance.

As a specialist school for pupils with complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), our approach recognises that sustainability must be practical, inclusive and proportionate.

Actions will support high-quality education whilst ensuring that environmental improvements remain achievable within the school's operational context.

This plan is a live document and will be reviewed regularly to reflect progress, changing priorities and emerging national guidance.

Section 02

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Focusing effort. Building resilience. Supporting the future.

Riverside Bridge School's Climate Action Plan is built around the Department for Education's four priority areas.

Priority	Aim
Adaptation and Resilience	Preparing the school for the impacts of climate change and ensuring a safe, resilient learning environment.
Biodiversity and Nature	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment across the school site.
Climate Education and Green Skills	Developing pupils' understanding of sustainability through meaningful learning experiences.
Decarbonisation and Net Zero	Reducing environmental impact through efficient use of energy, water and resources.

Section 03

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Defining actions. Assigning responsibility. Measuring progress.

Priority 1 - Adaptation and resilience

Objective	Actions	Lead	Success measures	Review
Improve climate resilience across the school estate	Review emergency arrangements for extreme weather	Facilities Manager	Emergency procedures updated	Annual
Reduce risks associated with heat	Review classroom temperatures and shading	Facilities Manager	Suitable mitigation identified	Annual
Improve flood and severe weather preparedness	Review business continuity arrangements	SLT	Business Continuity Plan updated	Annual
Ensure climate risks inform future estate developments	Include climate resilience within premises planning	Headteacher / Governors	Sustainability considered within estate projects	Ongoing

Priority 2 - Biodiversity and nature

Objective	Actions	Lead	Success measures	Review
Enhance biodiversity across the school grounds	Increase wildlife-friendly planting	Facilities Manager	Additional planting completed	Annual
Improve opportunities for outdoor learning	Develop curriculum-linked outdoor learning areas	Curriculum Leaders	Increased curriculum use	Annual
Encourage pupil participation	Involve pupils in gardening and environmental projects	Teaching Staff	Increased pupil engagement	Termly
Review grounds management	Consider biodiversity within landscaping decisions	Facilities Manager	Biodiversity improvements identified	Annual

Priority 3 - Climate education and green skills

Objective	Actions	Lead	Success measures	Review
Embed sustainability across the curriculum	Review curriculum opportunities within Flow Curriculum	Senior Deputy Headteacher	Sustainability mapped across curriculum	Annual
Develop Preparation for Adulthood links	Promote sustainable living and independence skills	Curriculum Leads	Learning opportunities expanded	Annual
Increase pupil participation	Deliver environmental projects appropriate to each pathway	Teaching Staff	Evidence of pupil engagement	Termly
Support staff awareness	Share sustainability initiatives through staff development	Sustainability Lead	Increased staff awareness	Annual

Priority 4 - Decarbonisation and net zero

Objective	Actions	Lead	Success measures	Review
Improve energy efficiency	Monitor energy usage and identify reductions	Facilities Manager	Energy usage monitored and opportunities for reduction identified and acted upon where practicable	Termly
Reduce waste	Promote recycling and responsible resource use	All Staff	Increased recycling rates	Termly
Improve procurement	Consider environmental impact when purchasing goods and services	All Staff	Sustainability considered within procurement	Ongoing
Reduce water consumption	Monitor usage and identify opportunities for efficiency	Facilities Manager	Water usage monitored and efficiency opportunities implemented where practicable	Annual

Section 04

MONITORING NAD REVIEW

Tracking progress. Updating priorities. Maintaining momentum.

Progress against this Climate Action Plan will be monitored by the Sustainability Lead and reported periodically to the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board.

The plan will be reviewed at least annually to evaluate progress, update objectives and respond to changes in legislation, Department for Education guidance or the operational needs of Riverside Bridge School. Individual actions may be reviewed more frequently in accordance with the review cycle identified within the plan

Delivery of this plan supports the implementation of the Sustainability Leadership Policy and contributes to the school's wider strategic priorities, estate management and continuous improvement.

Section 5

RELATED POLICIES & FRAMEWORKS

Connecting practice. Strengthening consistency.

This Sustainability Action Plan should be read alongside:

- Sustainability Leadership Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Management and Risk Assessment Policy
- Emergency Management and Business Continuity Plan
- Educational Visits Policy
- Procurement and Financial Procedures
- Premises Management Policy
- School Development Plan

Together, these documents provide the strategic and operational framework through which Riverside Bridge School plans, delivers and reviews sustainability priorities across curriculum, operations, estates and school improvement.