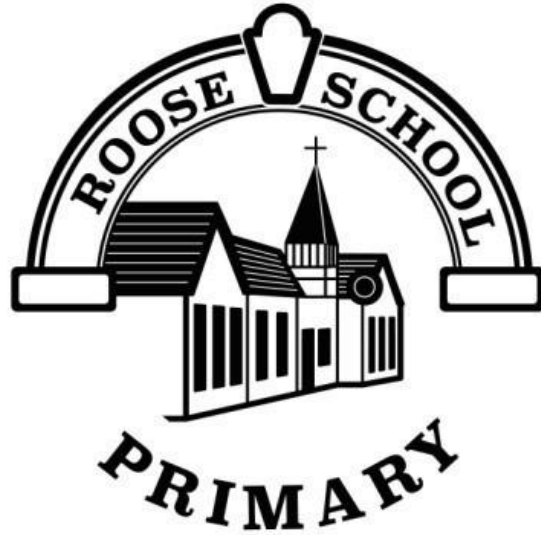




Sustainability Policy

2026 - 2027

Schedule of review

Review date: September 2027

Overview

Sustainability is an important and integral part of day-to-day life at Roose Community Primary School. It is a key part of our Roose School Vision and motto – ‘As a Caring Community we Learn and Grow’. Our six values which we focus on each half term, relate to sustainability. They are responsibility, thankfulness, care, friendship, growth and hope. We aim to become an environmentally friendly educational setting that reduces our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. We wish to instil an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practice in pupils, staff and our wider school community.

In line with the government’s goals to become a net zero nation, our school is committed to promoting the importance of sustainable living. We regularly review our curriculum to ensure that we are actively preparing our pupils for a sustainable future, developing their awareness and appreciation of caring for the environment. Extracurricular activities give our pupils further opportunity to deepen their understanding and become active, caring citizens. E.g. school council, forest schools, etc.

Our school environment is managed in a manner that demonstrates positive, sustainable practice to our pupils and their families. Our goal is to ensure that our school site and the practices that occur both inside and outside of the school building are sustainable and in line with government expectations relating to sustainability and climate change. The ways in which we manage matters of food, transport and travel, waste reduction and our consumption of energy and water reflect the values and ethos we wish to promote.

Aims

The aims of this sustainability strategy/policy are:

1. **To teach our children about how to look after the world around them and take responsibility for their actions.**
2. **To develop a knowledge of the world and sustainability.**
3. **To understand how everyone can help to prevent climate change.**

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy has been written by **Jenny Redhead, head teacher.**

Our school’s sustainability lead is Jenny Redhead.

All governors are responsible for monitoring this plan.

All staff and pupils at Roose Primary School have a role to play in developing a sustainable school environment. We all have the following responsibilities:

1. To follow our key actions and work together to create a more sustainable environment.

Curriculum

Ensuring pupils at Roose Community Primary School access a curriculum that teaches them about the importance of sustainability and how to live more sustainable lives is integral to the ethos and values of our school. Our curriculum regularly visits sustainability. For example, children may be focusing on a particularly book in year 3 which explores ocean pollution or they may look at climate change in a science topic.

Across our curriculum, opportunities are developed to enable pupils to learn about sustainable living. These opportunities may be targeted and specific, based on national curriculum objectives.

However, opportunities may also occur outside of our usual curriculum expectations. For example, ad-hoc opportunities to educate our pupils on sustainable practice may arise when discussing the day-to-day life of our school, such as the reasons why we must turn off lights when leaving a room and why utilising both sides of paper before recycling is a usual practice in our classrooms.

Our programme of extracurricular activities and clubs also enables pupils to access further learning opportunities about sustainability – for example; Forest Schools club.

Food Management

To ensure that Roose Primary School meets sustainability expectations relating to the management of food and the catering system at our school, the following actions will be taken:

1. **We choose a food provider who considers the sustainability of food and uses local food and providers.**
2. **Our children are encouraged to bring fruit to school as a snack so there are no wrappers.**
3. **We are teaching our children about growing food and encouraging them to be involved in gardening and growing it.**

Through introducing these practices, we hope to make a considerable impact, demonstrating sustainable practice to our staff, pupils, their families and the wider community. We hope that pupils will implement their learning at home, widening the influence of their education and increasing the benefits of these sustainable practices.

As part of our curriculum expectations, pupils will be taught a clear and comprehensive food curriculum that encourages them (and by extension, their families) to adopt sustainable life skills and approaches to food.

Waste Reduction

Roose Community Primary School is committed to reducing the amount of waste we produce and divert to landfill. To ensure we are able to limit the amount of waste generated in our school, we aim to instil good practice among pupils, staff and the wider community to ensure that, where possible, materials are recycled and repurposed.

We will endeavour to:

1. **Encourage children to choose reusable containers and wrappers for packed lunches and snacks.**
2. **We encourage our children to reduce, reuse and recycle.**
3. **We run a swap shop for uniform, costumes and clothes for themed events.**

To further our commitment, we are also ensuring that, where possible, our school sources, procures and uses sustainable, reusable materials and products. This will enable us to contribute to efforts to reduce the use of single use plastics and to ensure that items are not disposed of into landfill.

Energy and Water

To reduce the impact Roose Primary School has on the environment through the use of energy (electricity and gas) and water, our school aims, where possible, to monitor and limit our consumption. The following actions have been implemented to demonstrate our commitment to this goal:

1. **We regularly reassess our heating and changes timings of it to fit in with holidays, outside temperature etc.**
2. **We encourage our children to turn off lights when they are not in use.**
3. **We encourage our children to monitor their water use and not leave taps running.**
4. **We have updated our photocopier to a greener, more energy efficient version.**

In line with the government's recommendations, **Roose Primary School** is looking into installing and implementing a smart meter. This will enable us to keep track of our energy usage. We will use the data gathered from this smart meter to identify potential actions to reduce our energy consumption.

Where possible, Roose Primary School will endeavour to update and replace existing systems and equipment which are less energy efficient or outdated. This includes, but is not limited to, our heating system, the toileting facilities and electrical equipment, such as computers and other related technology. This will enable us to ensure that our school's energy and water consumption is sustainable and in line with our wider goals of becoming environmentally friendly. Updating these aspects of our school may also provide a significant financial benefit for Roose Primary School, reducing costs and futureproofing our systems.

It is important that staff, pupils and their families are informed of the importance of adopting sustainable practices in relation to energy and water consumption. For example, we will ensure that all members of our school community understand and value expectations, such as keeping windows closed in colder temperatures and turning off electrical

equipment when it is not in use. Instilling these practices in day-to-day school life will enable our values and ethos to be driven towards our goals and ensure that our consumption is reduced for the benefit of all.

Transport and Travel

Where possible, Roose Primary School will endeavour to promote sustainable practices relating to transport and travel.

Our efforts in this area include initiatives which will encourage staff, pupils and their families to travel to school via more sustainable, environmentally friendly means, including walking, use of bicycles and scooters and, as necessary, public transport. This will enable our school to reduce the impact of our carbon footprint, reducing the number of vehicles on the roads and the frequency of vehicles idling on, or near to, our school grounds.

To support our school community with their efforts to reduce the impact of transport and travel on the environment, we will do the following:

1. Encourage our children to walk, scoot or cycle to school.
2. Where possible, use parents and staff transport to sporting events rather than bigger buses and coaches.
3. Encourage our families to park in Roose Cons carpark and walk rather than drive to park in front of school.

Where additional transport or travel arrangements are required, such as on the occasion of educational visits or assisting pupils and their families with attending the school site, we will endeavour to procure transport via eco-conscious organisations and companies.

School Buildings and Site

To demonstrate Roose's continued commitment to improving its sustainable practices, the following actions will be taken in relation to the existing school building/site:

1. We have replaced all drafty ill-fitting windows last year.
2. We have replaced the front door so it is more energy efficient.
3. We will continue to monitor the building and keep it in a good state of repair.
4. We have planted trees on our field with Raise Cumbria who have given us a grant to buy forest schools equipment.

Where new school buildings are required, Roose Primary School will endeavour to ensure that all plans and building works are carried out in accordance with recent guidelines and initiatives. Our aim is to ensure that any works conducted are kind to the environment and demonstrate sustainable practice to staff and pupils and their families.

Our school site will be used to promote the benefits of living in a sustainable manner. Where possible, pupils will be educated in outdoor spaces that enhance the delivery of our school curriculum. We have a member of staff training as a level 3 forest schools practitioner who will then be able to enhance learning through running forest school sessions.

We will work with the local authority to ensure that the outdoor environment of our school promotes the ethos and values we are hoping to uphold, providing our pupils with opportunities to learn about flora and fauna and increase the biodiversity of our school site.