



## Climate Change and Sustainability Statement

At Pinewood School, we believe that building environmental awareness, encouraging resilience, and valuing biodiversity are essential values to nurture and support in educating students and providing the necessary understanding and skills needed for life in the modern world.

We are dedicated to offering a rich curriculum in which sustainability and climate education are embedded across everyday learning.

We aim to ensure our staff are equipped with the training and resources needed to teach this effectively. We also recognise that the school environment itself is a powerful educator, and we aim to utilise this effectively to promote climate awareness and sustainability.

The delivery of our Climate Action Plan will be overseen by the Board of Trustees, with regular monitoring carried out by the Sustainability Link Trustee. Day-to-day leadership will be coordinated by the Sustainability Lead with specific staff identified to lead on key strands such as biodiversity, travel, curriculum, and waste reduction. Staff will be given the necessary time and resources to plan and deliver actions effectively.

By combining strong governance with meaningful pupil and community engagement, we will ensure that our Climate Action Plan is not just a document, but a living, collaborative effort that steadily moves us towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

## Priority Areas

Our Climate Action Plan focuses on the four priority areas as determined by the Department for Education (DfE):

- **Adaptation and resilience:** how the setting is preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change
- **Biodiversity and nature:** efforts to protect and enhance nature and wildlife within the setting and its surroundings
- **Climate education and green skills:** how learners are supported to understand climate change, sustainability, and develop relevant skills
- **Decarbonisation and net zero:** actions to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, working towards net zero

## Roles and Responsibilities

### **Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**

- Provide strategic direction and ensure the Climate Action Plan is embedded in the School Development Plan.
- Lead on securing funding and allocating resources for sustainability projects.
- Champion climate education in staff meetings, curriculum planning, and assemblies.
- Monitor implementation and report progress to trustees and the wider school community.

### **Board of Trustees and Sustainability Link Trustee**

- Hold the school accountable for achieving its sustainability targets.
- Review progress against the Climate Action Plan annually.
- Approve investments in sustainable infrastructure (e.g., solar panels, LED upgrades).
- Ensure climate resilience and sustainability are considered in all strategic decisions.

### **Sustainability Lead**

- Coordinate the development, monitoring, and updating of the Climate Action Plan.
- Liaise with staff, pupils, parents, and external partners to deliver initiatives.
- Track progress through audits (energy, waste, travel, curriculum).
- Report outcomes to the Headteacher, SLT, and Board of Trustees.

### **Teachers and Support Staff**

- Embed sustainability into everyday teaching and learning.
- Encourage students to take part in Eco Council activities and sustainability projects.
- Model sustainable behaviours (switching off equipment, minimising waste, promoting active travel).
- Contribute subject-specific expertise to the curriculum audit and climate-linked lessons.

### **Pupils and Eco Council**

- Lead on whole-school campaigns such as Switch-Off, Car-Free Fridays, and recycling drives.
- Act as “Climate Champions” in classrooms — checking lights, bins, and energy use.
- Share ideas for improving biodiversity, reducing waste, and raising awareness.
- Represent pupil voice in meetings with staff and trustees.

### **Parents and Families**

- Support active travel by walking, cycling, or scooting to school.
- Participate in initiatives such as uniform/book swaps and recycling schemes.
- Reinforce sustainability messages at home and share expertise/resources with the school.
- Act as role models for sustainable behaviours within the school community.

### **Site Team**

- Implement additional energy efficiency measures (heating controls, rainwater harvesting).
- Ensure recycling and waste reduction measures are maintained.
- Oversee biodiversity projects such as tree planting, allotments, and wildlife areas.
- Maintain safe and sustainable buildings and grounds.

### **Climate Action Committee**

Our Climate Action Committee will meet regularly to discuss the current progress and future direction of the Climate Action Plan in accordance with the roles and responsibilities laid out above.

The committee will help determine and support the development of existing and new initiatives that contribute towards the objectives of the priority climate action areas as determined in this plan.

The committee will consist of the following members:

- The Sustainability Lead
- The Sustainability Link-Trustee
- Representative(s) of the Senior Leadership Team
- Representative(s) of the Teaching Staff
- Representative(s) of the Eco Council
- Representative(s) of the Site Team

## Implementing our Climate Action Plan

Our Climate Action Plan can be broken down into the areas indicated below which include setting a baseline from which to measure progress, addressing the four priority areas designated by the DfE and, the key areas of travel & air quality and waste management & recycling.

This plan will be reviewed every three years to consider and set new targets as necessary to maintain continued action.

### Establishing a baseline

We will establish a baseline from which to measure progress as below.

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Understand our school's carbon footprint	Use Keep Britain Tidy's Count Your Carbon tool. Analyse energy, waste, travel, and procurement emissions.	Spring 2026	Free online tool, Staff time	Sustainability Lead
Conduct a whole-school waste audit	Carry out bin audit across classrooms, dining hall, and offices. Analyse data and set reduction targets.	Summer 2026	Audit resources; Staff support	Eco Council, Sustainability Lead
Conduct whole-school travel audit	Carry out audit of travel modes for students and staff using Mode-shift STARS platform	Autumn 2026	Free online tool, Staff time	Sustainability Lead
Review curriculum for climate content	Audit all subjects to identify sustainability links and opportunities to embed climate education.	Spring 2026	Staff time; Curriculum leaders	Sustainability Lead, Subject Leaders

## Priority Area 1 - Adaptation and resilience

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Assess climate risks on school site	Conduct review of flood, heat, and storm vulnerabilities. Use local authority mapping tools.	Autumn 2026	Local authority support	Business Manager, Trustees
Introduce shading and cooling measures	Plant shade trees. Install sail shades. Relax dress codes in hot weather.	By Summer 2027	Funding for canopies; Tree planting grants	Headteacher, Site Manager
Install rainwater harvesting systems	Install water butts. Train pupils to use collected rainwater for gardens.	By Spring 2026	Low-cost water butts	Site Manager, Eco Council

## Priority Area 2 - Biodiversity and nature

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Litter picking programme	Establish programme of litter picking in green areas of site	Summer 2026	Litter picking tools	Eco Council, Site Manager
Develop use of green areas to create wildlife zones	Designate an area for planting. Plant pollinator-friendly flowers.	By Summer 2026	Garden tools; Seeds; Shrubs	Site Manager, Eco Council, Class teachers
Annual tree planting programme	Apply for free saplings via Woodland Trust. Plant with pupil participation. Link to curriculum.	Spring term annually	Woodland Trust saplings; Staff time	Sustainability Lead, Site Manager

## Priority Area 3 - Climate education and green skills

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Embed climate literacy across curriculum	Audit subjects to integrate sustainability themes. English to include environmental texts. Science and Geography to lead.	Ongoing, reviewed annually	Curriculum planning time	Sustainability Lead, Subject Leaders
Implement CPD to support teaching of climate issues	Source and implement schedule of CPD training for relevant staff to be able to deliver effective climate awareness lessons.	Ongoing, reviewed annually	Staff time, Online training resources	Sustainability Lead, Class teachers
Introduce climate anxiety and wellbeing workshops	Invite external experts to deliver workshops. Provide PSHE sessions on managing eco-anxiety.	2026	External providers; Staff training	RSHE Lead, Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead
Promote green careers	Invite local professionals for talks. Organise 'Green Careers' week.	Annually from 2026	Community volunteers; Careers	Sustainability Lead, Careers Coordinator

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#### Priority Area 4 - Decarbonisation and net zero

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Promote a school-wide 'Switch Off' campaign	Launch pupil-led campaign on turning off unused lights and devices. Include in newsletters and assemblies.	Summer 2026	Campaign packs; Eco Council time	Eco Council, Class Teachers
Explore additional renewable energy options	Investigate feasibility of additional solar panels with support from 'Solar for Schools'.	By 2027	External advisors; Grant applications	Trustees, Business Manager

#### Additional Area 1 - Sustainable Travel and Air Quality

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Implement 'No Idling' campaign	Install signage and promote non-idling for all vehicles visiting the school.	Spring 2026	Capital for signage. Staff time.	Sustainability Lead, Site Manager
Promote public transport for trips	Prioritise public transport over minibuses. Review trip risk assessments for carbon impact.	From Spring 2026	Staff time	Educational Visits Coordinator
Educate pupils on air pollution	Include air pollution in the curriculum.	Spring 2026	Curriculum resources	Science Lead
Monitor classroom ventilation	Install CO2 monitors. Train staff in safe air quality levels indoors.	By Summer 2026	Low-cost monitors	Site Manager, H&S Lead

#### Additional Area 2 - Waste Management and Recycling

Action	Steps	Timeline	Resources	Responsibility
Introduce waste recycling strategy	Arrange collection of separate waste streams for food waste, dry-mixed recycling and non-recyclable waste.	By Summer 2026	Funding for additional bins and waste collections	Sustainability Lead, Site Team
Reduce single-use plastics	Audit use of single-use plastics in school and remove / replace with reusable items	Summer 2026		Sustainability Lead, Eco Council,
Establish student 'Climate Champions'	Pupils monitor bins and encourage recycling. Reward low-waste classes.	Summer 2026	Eco Council time	Eco Council, Class Teachers

Host uniform and book swaps	Organise seasonal swap shops. Promote through newsletters.	Termly from Spring 2026	Parent volunteers; Community donations	Sustainability Lead, PTFA
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