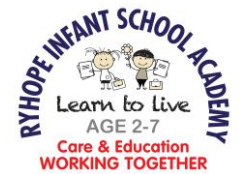


Ryhope Infant School Academy

Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan

2025 – 2027



What is a Climate Action Plan?

In April 2022, the Department for Education released a sustainability and climate change strategy specifically for education. By 2025, all education settings are expected to appoint a sustainability lead and develop a climate action plan.

Our mission is to train and support school staff so they can confidently share their knowledge and expertise when teaching and guiding children about sustainability and climate change. By equipping staff with the right tools and understanding, we aim to ensure that these important topics are taught clearly, consistently, and effectively across the school.

We also strive to develop a shared language around climate change and sustainability, creating a common understanding among staff, students, and the wider school community. This shared approach will help strengthen communication and deepen everyone's understanding of environmental issues.

In addition, we are committed to increasing awareness of the environmental impact of climate change within both the school and the local community. By highlighting real-world effects and encouraging open discussion, we hope to make these issues more relevant and meaningful.

Ultimately, our goal is to engage the entire school community in caring for the environment and taking positive action to reduce the impact of climate change. Through education, collaboration, and collective effort, we aim to inspire lasting, responsible change.

Our climate change team consists of:

- Sustainability and Climate Change Lead – Mrs T Allen
- Business Manager – lead on recycling and energy efficiency
- Geography Lead/ Science Lead – clear links made within the geography/science curriculum to ensure the children have a growing understanding of the impact we are having on our climate
- Site Supervisor – maintaining our outdoor environment and working closely with the climate change team with regards to recycling and energy efficiency

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Our climate action plan will focus on four key areas:

- Decarbonisation
- Adaptation and resilience,
- Biodiversity,
- Climate education/green careers

Each of these areas will have clear objectives, with specific actions outlined for the current academic year. Our entire school community – students, staff, parents, and the wider local community – will work collaboratively to bring this plan to life. Engaging with everyone, listening to their ideas, and involving them in our green initiatives is crucial. We will continue to build on existing relationships and forge new partnerships, leveraging shared resources and support to help meet our sustainability goals.

Decarbonisation			
Target	Actions	Monitoring and Evaluation	Resources
<p>Improve energy efficiency across the school to reduce the carbon footprint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start ‘switch off’ campaign to encourage all of the school community to close windows/doors, switch off lights and computers when they’re not in use, tighten taps to ensure they are not dripping. • Create an end-of-day classroom shutdown checklist. • Monitor heating levels across the school - reducing the time the heating is on for and reducing maximum temperature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site supervisor to monitor the temperature of the boilers throughout the winter months. • Try to reduce the temperature by 1 degree. • Planning will identify opportunities to teach outdoors. • Eco team to monitor the switch off campaign. • Site supervisor to monitor ‘switch off’ campaign. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the summer term, whenever possible, teachers to plan in opportunities to teach outside in order to reduce electric and resource usage. Create an award for the best classroom at the 'switch off' campaign. The site supervisor will pick the class and the award will be given out in the Friday assembly. 		
Reduce paper usage via digital communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of texts, Dojo, email and website to communicate with parents in a range of different ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBM to monitor paper usage – should reduce over time. 	
Ensure recycling system is implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper, food waste and other recycling bins to be available around school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site supervisor to monitor usage of bins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in recycling bins
Achieve Sunderland Low Carbon Charter accreditation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather evidence to demonstrate the standards have been met. Submit and organise a visit to review evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HT to collate evidence and submit application. 	
Long term - LED lighting replacement (as budget allows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan developed of school building where lights are needed. SBM to get 3 quotes Plan work for during holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBM to oversee project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for LED lighting
Reuse uniform to cut down waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-loved uniform available for all parents and promoted at 		

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	<p>different events, including new EYFS events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests sent out to parents for them to share any old/unwanted uniform. 		
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Biodiversity			
Target	Actions	Monitoring and Evaluation	Resources
<p>Increase knowledge of biodiversity within school grounds and local community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Groundwork to create a wildlife area including creating raised beds and pollinator-friendly planting. • Bug hotels and bird feeders • Seasonal biodiversity monitoring • Integration with science curriculum • Work with National Education Nature Park. • Take part in the Wild Oysters Project – see real oysters and take part in activities which will focus on marine biology and ecosystems, damage to our seas and climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class teachers to organise visits to Oyster project. • HT to organise dates/times for Ground Force to come into school to work with classes. • Science lead to review curriculum to ensure clear links to the action plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and funding. • Materials to create raised beds

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Regular litter picks completed around school site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site supervisor to complete regular litter picks. • Raise awareness with the children about putting litter in the bin. • Introduce the Golden Broom award for the cleanest/tidiest classroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site supervisor to monitor grounds. • Staff and children to monitor grounds at break times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broom/brush • Litter pickers
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Adaptation and Resilience			
Target	Actions	Monitoring and Evaluation	Resources
Increase knowledge of resilience and adaptation by raising awareness and educating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure climate education shares explicit links to our school and community. • Use school newsletter to increase parental knowledge and share pupil learning to encourage individual action both in and out of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject leads to monitor planning and evidence in books. 	
Promote water conservation through increasing efficiency of use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and introduce water efficient features throughout the school where possible and appropriate (investigate replacing taps with 'low flush' models; investigate safe and efficient rainwater harvesting ideas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBM and site supervisor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in resources to support this such as water butts.

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Climate Education and Greener Careers			
Target	Actions	Monitoring and Evaluation	Resources
Engage children in climate action initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an "Eco Team" of children to lead climate action projects Encourage children to participate in climate-themed assemblies, workshops, and competitions Provide opportunities for children to share their climate action ideas and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Team established with at least 8 children At least 2 climate-themed assemblies or workshops per year Increased participation and enthusiasm from children in climate action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time for meetings and activities Funding for climate action projects
Develop school communal areas to enhance knowledge of and celebrate biodiversity in the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create display in corridor to show children the local area during the different seasons: trees, weather, animals, plants to look out for. Celebrate pupil's work/participation in local area events that tackle climate change and improve biodiversity - photos, information in newsletters, school blog posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to ensure events and projects are shared with the wider school community. Monitor displays throughout school. Talk to pupils about displays and the impact of them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocated staff time to update displays.
Increase knowledge of sustainability through being part of national awareness days/weeks/months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 March, Global Recycling Day 22 April, Earth Day 30 April, Stop Food Waste Day 20 May, World Bee Day 8 June, World Oceans Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupil voice Book scrutinies Display around school Share on social media and Dojo 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All month, Plastic Free July		
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