Climate Action Plan



St Cuthbert's CE Primary School, Darwen

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

At St Cuthbert's CE Primary School, Darwen, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we're excited to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at St Cuthbert's CE Primary School, Darwen to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

SUMMARY

Not started: 21 items



Section

DECARBONISATION

DELIVER SOME LESSONS OUTSIDE

Outdoor lessons provide pupils with fresh air and a change of scenery while reducing reliance on indoor lighting and heating. Whether it's reading in a shaded area, conducting science experiments outside, or using school gardens for hands-on learning, outdoor education fosters engagement and sustainability awareness.

NOT STARTED

INSTALL LED LIGHTING

LED lighting is a cost-effective and energy-efficient alternative to traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. By switching to LED lighting, schools can significantly reduce electricity consumption and maintenance costs while lowering their carbon footprint. LED bulbs also generate less heat, improving classroom comfort and reducing the need for air conditioning.

NOT STARTED



Section

DECARBONISATION

INSTALL SOLAR PANELS

Installing solar panels requires an MCS certified installer to install them. They will normally be able to give you an idea of the amount of solar panels that can fit on the premises. You'll need to also decide if you would like a battery system as well, to help store energy during winter months when there is less sunshine available.

NOT STARTED

RUN A SWITCH OFF CAMPAIGN

A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions and real-time energy monitoring can make energy efficiency a long-term habit.

NOT STARTED



Section

DECARBONISATION

TRAVEL SURVEY

A travel survey helps schools gather data on pupil and staff commuting habits. By understanding travel patterns, schools can identify opportunities to encourage more sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport. This information can support decisions on bike rack installations, road safety improvements, and incentive programs for eco-friendly commuting.

NOT STARTED



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

CREATE A HEATWAVE HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

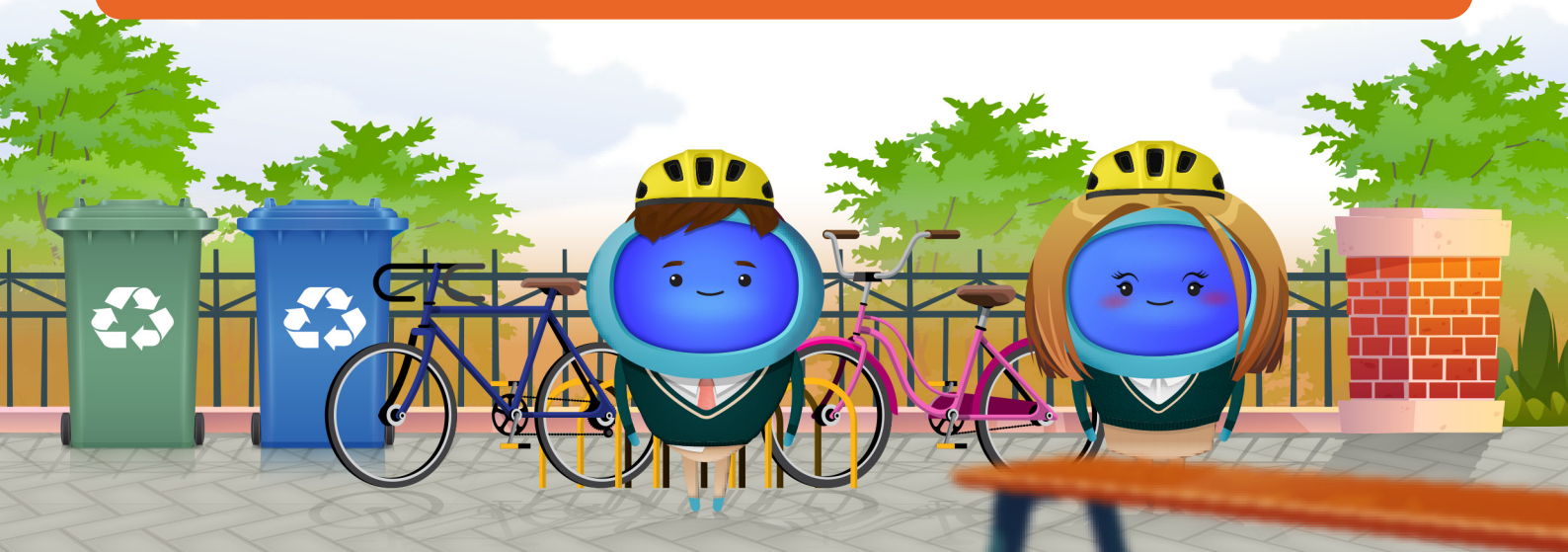
As heatwaves become more common due to climate change, schools must ensure the wellbeing of pupils and staff during extreme temperatures. A heatwave health and safety assessment should include installing shaded seating areas, increasing hydration points, improving ventilation, and adjusting schedules during hot weather. Proactive planning helps prevent heat-related illnesses while fostering a healthier, more resilient learning environment.

NOT STARTED

CREATE A SCHOOL COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR FOOD RESILIENCE

Establishing a community garden allows schools to grow their own fruits and vegetables, reducing reliance on external food sources. This initiative provides hands-on sustainability education, promotes healthy eating, and fosters a sense of community among pupils and staff.

NOT STARTED



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

INSTALL WATER BUTTS

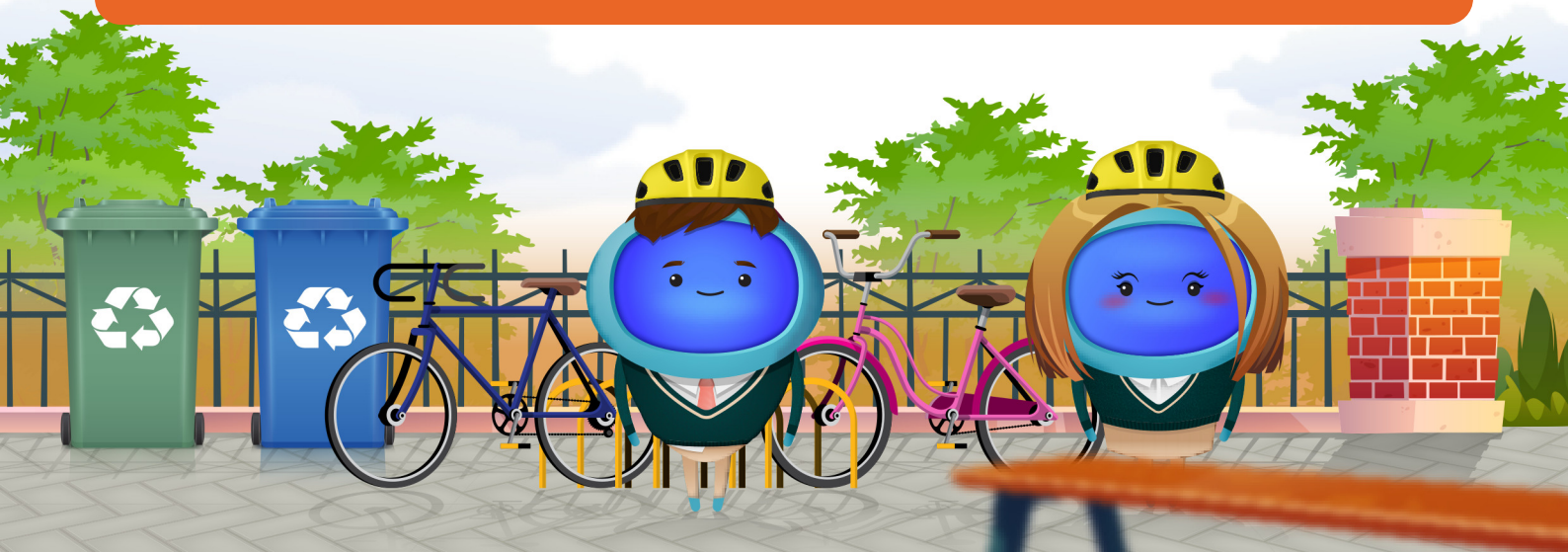
Water butts allow schools to collect and store rainwater, reducing dependence on mains water for irrigation, cleaning, and other non-drinking purposes. This initiative helps conserve water, cut utility costs, and educate pupils on sustainable water management practices. Schools implementing water butts can use them to water gardens, supply outdoor play areas, and even contribute to science lessons on water conservation.

NOT STARTED

PLANT TREES TO CREATE SHADED AREAS

Planting trees strategically around the school campus provides natural cooling, reducing the need for artificial cooling systems during hot months. Trees also improve air quality by filtering pollutants, enhance biodiversity by providing habitats for birds and insects, and create inviting outdoor learning spaces. As they grow, trees contribute to carbon sequestration, offsetting a portion of the school's emissions while simultaneously improving pupil wellbeing.

NOT STARTED



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

SET UP A SCHOOL RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Establishing a resilience committee ensures ongoing adaptation to environmental challenges. This team, composed of pupils, staff, and community members, can assess risks, implement sustainability policies, and coordinate resilience projects. Regular meetings will help track progress and adjust strategies as needed.

NOT STARTED



Section

BIODIVERSITY

BUILD A SCHOOL POND FOR WILDLIFE

School ponds provide essential habitats for amphibians, insects, and birds, improving local biodiversity. They also offer a hands-on educational resource for pupils to study aquatic ecosystems, life cycles, and conservation. Proper maintenance ensures the pond remains a thriving habitat.

NOT STARTED

BUILD AN INSECT HOTEL

Log piles and disused wood pallets can be used to create a natural habitat for insects, amphibians, and fungi, enhancing biodiversity and promoting decomposition processes. They can be strategically placed in school gardens to serve as learning tools for ecology studies.

NOT STARTED



Section

BIODIVERSITY

CARRY OUT A NATURE SURVEY

Schools can conduct nature surveys to document the species of plants, insects, and animals found on school grounds. This information can help identify areas for biodiversity improvement, such as adding nesting boxes, planting native species, or reducing pesticide use. Engaging pupils in biodiversity monitoring promotes conservation awareness and scientific curiosity.

NOT STARTED

CREATE A SCHOOL POLLINATOR GARDEN

A school pollinator garden provides a habitat for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. By planting native wildflowers and nectar-rich plants, schools can contribute to biodiversity and support local ecosystems. These gardens also serve as valuable outdoor learning spaces where pupils can observe pollination in action and learn about the role of insects in food production.

NOT STARTED



Section

BIODIVERSITY

PARTICIPATE IN THE RSPB BIRDWATCH

Schools can engage pupils in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Birdwatch, an annual citizen science event where participants record and report bird sightings. This initiative helps develop observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts. Schools can integrate this activity into science and geography lessons to reinforce learning.

NOT STARTED

SIGN YOUR SCHOOL UP TO EDUCATION NATURE PARK

Schools can participate in local or national education nature park programs to connect pupils with nature-based learning experiences. These programs provide hands-on engagement with biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability. By participating, pupils gain a deeper appreciation of the environment, and schools can access valuable teaching resources and support for outdoor learning initiatives.

NOT STARTED



Section

BIODIVERSITY

START A GARDENING CLUB

A gardening club provides pupils with hands-on experience in growing flowers, vegetables, and trees, while also teaching them about sustainability, soil health, and biodiversity. Gardening improves mental well-being, fosters teamwork, and enhances outdoor learning opportunities. Schools can use gardens to produce food, beautify the environment, and engage pupils in long-term eco-friendly initiatives.

NOT STARTED

WORK WITH THE PUPILS TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THE SCHOOL SITE SHOULD LOOK

Schools can involve pupils in decision-making about their learning environment, ensuring that sustainability considerations are incorporated. Whether through workshops, surveys, or school councils, pupil input can lead to more effective green space planning, improved outdoor learning areas, and projects that align with their needs and interests. Involving pupils also increases their sense of ownership and responsibility for the school environment.

NOT STARTED



Section

CLIMATE EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS

CREATE A SCHOOL ECO COMMITTEE

A school eco committee gives pupils the opportunity to lead sustainability projects, influence school policies, and advocate for environmental improvements. This initiative fosters leadership, encourages responsibility, and ensures sustainability remains a core focus in school decision-making.

NOT STARTED

DEVELOP AN OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM FOCUSED ON NATURE

Outdoor learning programs provide pupils with hands-on experiences in nature, teaching them about local ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation. Schools can create learning gardens, conduct nature walks, or collaborate with conservation groups to enhance pupil engagement with the environment.

NOT STARTED



Section

CLIMATE EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS

ORGANISE A WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Encouraging pupils and staff to walk, bike, or use public transport instead of driving can reduce emissions and improve local air quality. A Walk to School Week helps raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of active travel.

NOT STARTED

