

Abbot's Hall Community Primary School

Climate and Sustainability Action Plan



2025 - 2027

Headteacher	<i>Daniel Pettitt</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>Gary Kenworthy</i>
CEO - CET	<i>Daniel Jones</i>
Address	<i>Danescourt Avenue, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1QF</i>
Unique Reference Number	<i>147933</i>

Be the best that you can be!

What is Climate Change?

The dictionary definition is: A change in global or regional acclimate patterns, in particular a change apparent from mid to late 20th Century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels. There are many factors that can make the Earth warmer and colder including:

- greenhouse gases caused by human activity,
- deforestation, where more than half of the world's surface has been ploughed and paved,
- ozone layer trapping heat closer to the Earth's surface
- different types of air pollution which have different effects on the atmosphere.

The challenge of climate change is formidable.

For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth, but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field (DFE 2023).

What can we do?

The DfE has called on all education sectors to create a sustainability climate action plan to show how we, as a school community, can support national and international initiatives which are aimed at protecting the world through direct climate action. As a school, we have an important role to play in this, particularly reducing our environmental footprint to work towards net zero and giving all children and adults the knowledge and skills to thrive in the green economy and to help restore nature. Through our climate action plan, we will engage directly with children who are passionate about the natural world, want to do their best to protect it and can influence their wider communities. Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to Year 6, our children will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.

The DfE have required schools to set targets on each of the four following areas:

- Decarbonisation
- Adaptation and Resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate Education and Green Careers

In addition, our plan will also consider the following associated needs:

- Travel
- Air quality
- Waste and recycling

Climate, Environmental Sustainability Statement

At Abbot's Hall Primary School, we want our students to become increasingly considerate of the environment, their impact upon it and respectful of the world around them. At Abbot's Hall we are working to become a sustainable school in a variety of ways and with a wide range of projects. We are aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the ecological footprint. We realise that schools have an important role in working towards environmental sustainability and are keen to help the students develop skills and attitudes to fulfil this value. As a school we have reviewed the DFE's publication on "Top tips for sustainability in schools" and try to implement this where possible.

Eco School Status

Abbot's Hall has proudly been an Eco School since 2009 when we gained our first Bronze award. We have since achieved the Silver award and the highest award 'Green Flag' status. The ten Eco topics are embedded into the school curriculum and daily life of the school.

The Eco Committee

The Eco Committee is made up of children from Years 1 - 6 who normally who meet each week. This year, our focus has been Biodiversity, Litter and Waste. During our Environmental Review we found that litter and waste were the two areas we needed to make the biggest change.

We planted a hedgerow along the fence that separates the school field and the Early Years garden.

We have increased our biodiversity by planting bulbs (donated by Asda) in pots in the pencil fence area and planted hedging, lavender and bulbs around our new Reading Pod.

Last year, our Eco-Committee worked hard to organise and store crisp packets for re-cycling. This continues to be a task which is enjoyed because it is a simple thing that anyone can do to play their part in looking after our environment.

We have launched an initiative to recycle batteries. We have taken delivery of a huge battery collection container and each child has been given a small collecting box to take home. We are proud to be a school that supports recycling and the children are all keen to help fill the container.

Buildings, Energy and Grounds

Over the last few years we have invested in our premises and our maintenance programme to take steps to reduce our environmental impact:

- Smaller toilet cisterns reducing water use
- LED and Sensor lighting which turns off when the room is not in use installed 2024/25
- New heating system across the main building installed 2024/25
- New electrical circuit installed 2024/25

- Hedge planting around the field

Future Building, Energy and Grounds Plans:

In line with our vision and strategy plan in the future we hope to complete the following projects pending funding:

- Replacing windows to a more energy efficient window
- Replace internal and external fire doors to meet with current regulations

Teaching/Learning

Pupils learn about their environment, climate change and the impact of human activity:

- As part of the geography curriculum children will understand:
 - how the climate is changing and humans' impact on the world around them
 - physical and human geography, including biomes and vegetation belts, land use, economic activity including trade links
- As part of the Science curriculum children will understand:
 - How materials best suited for different uses and how they can be recycled
 - Plants and life cycles and how changes in the environment can have an adverse effect
 - Living things and their habitats – what can humans do to preserve these habitats
- As part of the PSHE curriculum children will understand:
 - Global citizenship and our responsibility to the planet and all of its inhabitants
 - How to make a difference in the world
 - Taking personal responsibility for our decisions and behaviours

Culture/Community

At this school we also appreciate that we need to consider the wider community and how our school can make a difference environmentally. We:

- run a walking bus at the beginning and end of the day
- have a second-hand uniform bank
- source recycled products e.g. paper
- have a large array of roof sited solar panels
- have room entry light sensor switches
- recycle where possible
- encourage the use of reusable bottles for water
- encourage the use of walking/cycling/scootering to school.

Objective 1: Decarbonisation

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Heating systems will run effectively and carbon emissions will be reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular servicing is in place Consider butcher curtains in EYFS where the external doors are open to facilitate free flow learning. 	Office Manager	£1K	Reduction in carbon emissions. Heat loss reduced. Lower energy bills.
Reduce Carbon Emissions by turning lights and plugs off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Eco Committee to lead a project encouraging all parties to turn lights and plugs off when leaving a room. Staff requested to turn whiteboards off at the wall overnight and at weekends. Laptops and iPads have timers on the plug to limit energy use overnight. 	All Staff Eco Committee	£0	Reduction in carbon emissions. Reduction in energy bills. All parties educated and take ownership for the site.
Reduce Carbon Emissions by greater use of the outdoor space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor areas are used more extensively (refer to Biodiversity section), including Blue Sky Classroom and the Forest classroom. 	Phase Leaders Forest Classrooms Lead Eco Lead	£0	Reduction in carbon emissions. Increased education of nature and the outdoors. Diversity in learning.
Reduction in energy use and heat loss across the main building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review site and highlight any areas of heat to inform future CIF bid (Trust Estates Team) to replace windows. 	Estates Team	£500	Reduction in carbon emissions. Heat loss reduced. Lower energy bills.

Objective 2: Adaption and Resilience

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Build resilience in children in coping with rising temperatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage all children to wear suitable clothing for the changing weather: coats, sunhats. Communicate this with parents via newsletters. Encourage all children to have a water bottle in school every day. Encourage the use of shade for the children over the lunchtime periods on hot days using shade provided by the trees and in the Blue-Sky Classroom. Allow access to classrooms on extremely hot days. 	Phase leaders / SLT Staff Children Parents/Carers Friends of Abbot's	£1K (Friends?)	More resilience in all weather. Better health leading to improved school attendance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate shades for the field e.g. gazebos. 			
Be more water wise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage a 'low water waste' culture in school. Anglian Water to do their annual water programme with the older children. School Eco Committee to lead an in-school awareness campaign. 	School Parliament Eco-Committee Site Staff	£0	Use less water. Lower water bills. More resilient in times of drought.
School awareness of Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share Climate Action Plan on the school website. School Assembly sharing the vision of the plan. Network with climate and sustainability partners to share good practice. 	Headteachers Governors Eco Lead Office Manager	£0	Culture of awareness and resilience. Better 'buy in' of the Climate Action Plan.

Objective 3: Biodiversity

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Develop and extended use of the Forest Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for grant funding to improve the outdoor areas of the school and the forest classroom. Eco committee to gather the Pupil Voice on how areas can be developed. Increase biodiversity of the area by the addition of water butts, wild meadow area and wellbeing area around the school. Encouraging wildlife with bug hotels, butterfly barns, hedgehog house and bird houses. 	Office Manager Eco Committee Forest Classroom Lead Children Staff	£Any grants	Increased biodiversity. Encouraging wildlife to the area. Extended opportunities for outdoor learning. Supporting children who struggle in class. Encouraging a love of wildlife.
No Mow May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure No Mow May takes place in EYFS bottom of the field annually. Encourage children and parents/carers to get involved within their own spaces at home via the newsletter. 	Office Manager Deputy Head Grounds Contractor	£0	Increased biodiversity. Encouraging wildlife to the area. Encouraging a love of wildlife.

Objective 4: Climate Education and Green Careers

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Educate the school community in recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle waste in school: paper and card, crisp packets, pens, glue sticks. Investigate further recycling opportunities. Investigate whiteboard pens which can be refilled. 	Office Manager Eco Committee Children Staff	£500	Improved education amongst all parties in school. Lower amount of waste going to land fill.
Introduce and educate the school community in food recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembly to introduce food recycling. Purchase food bins. Arrange food bin collections. Correct labelling of food bins. Staff ensure children understand and follow the procedures of correct waste disposal. 	Office Manager Lunchtime staff	£500	Legal requirements met. Increased recycling of food waste.
SMSC Days – Inclusion of Green Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Days held in school will include a speaker from a 'green career' educating children in the opportunities available. Benefits objective 7. 	Phase 3 lead and staff	£0	Increased education of green careers.

Objective 5: Travel

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Encourage walking and scooting to school and participate in Walk to School Week annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote the walking bus. Walk to School week is advertised and participation encouraged by the whole school community. Resources purchased to encourage participation (stickers / posters) 	JRSO Lead Office Manager Staff Children	£0	Improved awareness of impact of cars to the environment. Improved health leading to better school attendance.
Safe travel to and from school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCSO whole school assembly. JRSO and Headteacher parking monitoring. Increase signage around the school encouraging safer parking. Participate in competitions to promote safer travel to school. 	JRSO's Headteacher Office Manager	£200	Safer travel to school. Reduce parking issues. Reduce pollution close to the school.
Improve cycling and scooter skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikeability to run at least annually for Year 5 or Year 6 children. 	Deputy Head Office Manager	£free / 560	Safer travel to school. Reduce parking issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Scooter wise club or learning event. 	Children Sports Partnership.		Reduce pollution close to the school.
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Objective 6: Air Quality

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Asthma Friendly School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for Asthma Friendly School status. All children with asthma have asthma plans in place and are updated annually. Staff are asthma trained. 	Office Manager / staff Staff Parents/Carers	£0	Improved awareness of asthma. Procedures and policies are in place and followed by all parties.

Objective 7: Climate Education and Green Careers

Objective	How this will be achieved	Who will be involved	Cost	Impact
Reduction in plastic waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic cutlery is removed from single use. Review the possibility of additional recycling initiatives. 	Office Manager Catering Providers Staff	£200	Less waste to landfill. Greater awareness of environmental issues.
Uniform Re-use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second hand uniform available to parents/carers from Friends of Abbot's. Second hand uniform events held throughout the year. Second hand clothing/uniform collection once a year to donate to charity. 	Friends of Abbot's Office Manager Parents/Carers	£0	Less waste to landfill. Assistance to low-income families.