

Ashford CE Primary School



Climate Action Plan September 2025

Sustainability Leader:
Lesley Bailey
Headteacher

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Our School Vision

We are a caring Christian community where everyone adopts an “I can” attitude; everyone feels valued, safe and loved by God. We celebrate our God-given individuality, achievements and talents and we aspire, with God’s help, to become the best that we can be. We believe that each one of us has the ability to achieve our highest potential, living and learning in the fullness of God.

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Philippians 4v13

1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference. This plan is a living document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge. Ashford CE Primary School Primary School recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with the UK Government’s Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education, the DfE’s Climate Action Plan Guidance.

2. Vision and Objectives

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment living and learning in the fullness of God’s love. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils alike.

Vision:

To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2025.
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.

- Increase biodiversity within our footprint.
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.
- Encourage and enable staff to car share and access cycling schemes.
- Increase number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school.

3. Current Achievements

Verified Sustainability Projects completed at Ashford CE Primary School

3.1 Outdoor Learning in the Forest School

Ashford CE makes extensive use of its outdoor area that has been developed for Forest School. Pupils from Early Years to Key Stage 2 engage in:

- Weekly nature exploration/Forest School sessions
- Themed outdoor days
- Skills development such as whittling, fire lighting, and den building
- Wildlife observation
- Ecosystem education and conservation ethics

This initiative supports biodiversity, wellbeing, and environmental literacy.



3.2 Cycle Storage

The school received funding from the Surrey County Council to install pupil cycle storage.

3.3 Achieved Eco-Award

Ashford CE Primary School has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Last year our Eco-Team worked really hard to achieve the seven Eco-Schools steps during the academic year, which enabled us to apply for an Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

Step 1: Eco-Committee

Step 2: Environmental Review

Step 3: Action Plan

Step 4: Curriculum Links

Step 5: Informing and Involving

Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

Step 7: Eco-Code



It is the perfect way to acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of young people. It clearly demonstrates that their hard work is appreciated, and it provides them with the confidence and motivation needed to continue actively engaging with environmental issues throughout their lifetimes. Finally, it also tells local communities that a school, college or nursery is forward-thinking and promotes youth-led environmental education and action.



3.4 Travel plan accreditation

We were awarded a “Good” level of STARS travel plan in August 2025. The school is now working towards a “Very Good” plan as there has been a reduction in the use of travel by car. Completed actions include working with the local community to improve travel and parking, increasing the use of active travel methods such as walking or cycling and promoting car sharing or park and stride initiatives.

3.5 LED lighting installed – project led by Premises Staff

It was identified during the school’s building condition reviews that we had old & aging lighting installations that were not energy efficient, that would be increasingly costly in terms of energy consumption & with an increasing number of lamp failures. Working with the London Diocesan Board for Schools we were able to upgrade all the lighting in classrooms and the school hall.

4. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. For example, the energy audit will not only identify areas for improvement but also serve as a baseline for tracking progress. The biodiversity initiatives will be supported by local wildlife trusts, and the curriculum integration will be guided by the National Education Nature Park framework. We will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Theme	Actions	Timeline	Lead	Resources Needed
Leadership & Governance	Appoint a Sustainability Lead and form a Green Team	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Time allocation, training
Energy & Carbon	Conduct an energy audit Count the carbon website use	Spring 2026	Premises Staff/Buildings Consultant	Audit tools, funding
Waste & Recycling	Expand recycling to include plastics, and batteries	Ongoing	Premises Staff	Bins, signage
Water Use	Install water saving devices in toilets and taps	Summer 2026	Premises Staff	Plumbing support
Biodiversity	Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase biodiversity, sensory garden and Tree Planting	Spring 2026	Premises Staff and Eco-Lead lead	Tools, volunteers
Curriculum Integration	Embed sustainability in science, geography, and PSHE. Develop Fragile Earth topic.	Ongoing	Curriculum Leads	CPD, lesson plans
Pupil Engagement	Eco-Club and student-led projects Litter picking and awareness strategy	Autumn 2025	Headteacher/Eco-Lead	Club time, materials
Travel	Continued work on travel plan to gain Very Good accreditation level Installation of council funded Cycle Park	Ongoing	Headteacher SBM	

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, Ashford CE Primary School will:

- Review the plan annually led by the Sustainability Lead and site staff.
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement).
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through informal discussions and Eco-Club input.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

6. Future Achievements Log

This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress. Examples of future achievements may installing solar panels, or launching a school-wide composting program.

Date	Achievement	Impact	Next Steps

7. Support and Resources

In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share ideas/best practices. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

- DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-changestrategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-andchildrens-services-systems>

- DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainabilityleadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>
- Let's Go Zero Campaign: <https://www.letsgozer.org/>
- National Education Nature Park: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

Tools and Networks:

Climate Ambassador Programme

Volunteer experts help schools develop and implement Climate Action Plans for free. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and led by the University of Reading and EAUC.

[Visit the Climate Ambassadors Programme](#)

Sustainability Support for Education

The Department for Education provides curated resources, training, and guidance to help schools integrate sustainability into teaching and operations. This includes support from COP26 initiatives, water resilience strategies, and climate literacy campaigns.

[Explore DfE Sustainability Resources](#)

Eco-Schools Programme

An international award scheme that empowers pupils to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework. Schools can earn the prestigious Green Flag accreditation.

[Learn More About Eco-Schools](#)

8. Conclusion

By taking a proactive approach to climate action, Ashford CE Primary School is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow. This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion.

Ashford CE Primary School is committed to being a beacon of sustainability in Surrey. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our pupils, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.

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Headteacher and Sustainability Lead, Lesley Bailey