Buckland Primary School – Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan 2025 – 2027

At Buckland Primary School, we know that sustainability is all about giving children the opportunities, skills, and support they need to take control of their school environment and the wider world beyond. We want to empower our children so they can contribute in the best possible way, through taking responsibility for their own school, the wider local community and surroundings and the global community. As part of the DfE requirements, our school climate action plan include at least one action from the four key areas.

The four key areas set out by the DfE are:

1. Decarbonisation 2. Adaptation and resilience 3. Biodiversity 4. Climate education and green careers

Buckland Primary School recognises that the following are in place and seeks to continue with this best practice. The areas we are working on can be found at the end of this assessment. Our climate change team consists of (but is not limited to):

*Rebecca Hutton - Headteacher / Sustainability Lead *Chris Webber – School Business Manager *Peter De Leonardis – DHT / Literacy Lead
*Ella Griffiths and Georgia Phillips – Science Leads *Lee Smith – Site Manager / Caretaker *ECO / Pupil Parliament committee (student led)
*Barry Cook and Gemma Manandhar – PE/Sports and Forest School leads

No	DfE link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate Education and Green Careers	Through lessons, and the curriculum we encourage behavioural change by the pupils and whole school community to help improve and sustain the environment.	Sustainability lead Curriculum lead
2		We continue to seek out good practice which inspire ensuring we share our learning with each other and other education settings linked to climate change.	Curriculum leads
3		We encourage pupils to reduce single-use plastics, use refillable water bottles and also encouraging the school community to reuse plastic containers where appropriate.	ECO committee Sustainability lead
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation and Biodiversity	Clear recycling systems in place for paper: waste paper, food waste where pupils and staff are educated about the value of resources.	SBM, Sustainability lead ECO /Pupil Parliament, Curriculum leads
2		Pre-loved uniform available for free and sold at a vastly reduced rate for parents every term – unclaimed lost property and donated	SBM, School Office, PTA
3		Paperless communications with parents at every opportunity	SBM, School Office,
4		Regular litter picks around the school site by staff and pupils	ECO and Pupil Parliament leads
Food			
1	Decarbonisation, Climate	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste which is recycled separately and collected weekly	SBM, Catering team

2	education and Green Careers	Promote daily vegetarian options through school website and parent communication, at least 1 vegetarian option available each day and two on some days.	Sustainability lead, Catering team
3		Lunch break timings are sensitively managed to reduce queuing time and to ensure all pupils are given time to eat and time to play to reduce food waste due to pupils feeling the do not have enough time to eat. KS2 pupils offered second helpings to reduce waste.	Sustainability lead, Catering team
4		Meals are managed in a way which means pupils can make a selection - ensuring they are choosing somethings they want to eat, alongside reducing waste of over cooking.	Sustainability lead, Catering team
5		A lunchtime salad bar and fruit option encourage pupils to try more healthy foods. All are responsibly sourced.	Catering team
Air Quality			
1	Climate Education and Green Careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike or scooter to reduce pollution near school.	Sustainability and ECO leads
2		There are 2 scooter and bike racks located in the school grounds.	SBM, ECO and Sustainability leads
3		Surrey Promotes 'No Idling' around schools preventing harmful fumes.	
4		The grounds are planted with a range of flowers, trees and shrubs to improve air quality	SBM, ECO lead
5		Every classroom, communal room and office have an air quality monitor	SBM
Travel			
1	Decarbonisation	Scooter and bike racks support pupils to travel healthily to school. Healthy and sustainable travel to school is promoted on a regular basis.	SBM, Eco lead
2		Bikeability for Y4 and Y6. Bikes and Scooters for Y2. Feet first training for Y3.	School office, Sustainability lead
3		Parents/Carers of pupils in Y6 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from school (HT permission).	Headteacher
Reducing Energy			
1	Decarbonisation	Reminders to staff and pupils (emails and signs) to switch off all lights, devices, appliances and plugs when not in use.	All staff and pupils
2		Energy costs are monitored and concerns investigated.	SBM, Care taker
3		The school heating is controlled on a timer to reduce the length of time the heating is on for.	SBM, Caretaker
4		Regular reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed (though still allow for ventilation) when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	SBM, Caretaker
5		LED and sensor lighting installed across the school help reduce energy use and costs.	SCC, SBM and Caretaker
Outdoor space			
1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school and used on a regular basis – Forest school, Wildlife gardens, sensory garden, fields	All staff
2		Bug hotel wildlife spots in place to support local wildlife – these are mostly within our wildlife and forest schools' areas	ECO led
3		Buckland Primary has a pond which supports the biodiversity of the school. The pond is home to frogs and newts.	Site team, ECO lead

4		Planting of trees (including fruit trees), shrubs and other plants on the school grounds to capture more carbon with natural solutions.	As above
5		Wild patches left and wild flowers planted across the site	As above
6		Where possible we do not use any chemicals within our school grounds to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and our biodiverse wildlife population.	Site team
Water			
1	Climate education and Green Careers	Taps are auto turn off in all toilets to reduce water usage.	Site team
2		Undrunk water from the end of the day is used to water plants.	All staff
3		All staff and children are encouraged to use refillable water bottles	All staff and pupils
4		The school dishwashers are only put on once a day and only when full.	All staff
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Minimal resources are purchased – especially paper related to support and reduce wastage	SBM, School office, all staff
2		Resources that are no longer suitable for use in school are recycled, repurposed or rehomed.	SBM, Caretaker
3		Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used, though this is not always possible due to financial constraints and the school's commitment to ensuring vfm.	SBM, Headteacher, GB

Action for Change

Action	DfE link	Target	Timescale / deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
Promoting Green Careers to pupils	Climate education and Green Careers	Highlight 'Green Careers' in Climate/Environment assemblies which include guest speakers	Dec 2026	Headteacher and Sustainability lead	
Gardening Club offered throughout the year		Gardening Cub offered at least once a week - spring/summer terms	July 2026	Staff Eco lead (co-ordinate Eco Committee	
Waste					
Consider if the addition of the new food waste bin may allow for a reduction in general waste collection	Decarbonisation	Reduce general waste collection due to increase in recycling and separation of rubbish	Dec 2026	SBM Caretaker Spelthorne Council	
Provide recycling opportunities for further products e.g., Tera-cycling and clothes recycling.		Additional recycling stations at school. All packed lunch waste is taken home. School encouraging community to recycle clothing and fabrics.	Oct 2026	Headteacher Sustainability lead SBM Eco committee	
Food					
Encourage students and staff to bring single use plastic free lunches.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Develop an understanding of importance of reducing plastic in the environment – assemblies and themed lessons Reduction in waste created in school	Dec 2026	Headteacher All staff Eco committee Families	

Develop the school science/sensory garden and class vegetables beds so that food can be used and eaten in school.	Biodiversity	Classes / year groups grow at least 3 different types of vegetables and wild flowers which can be eaten and increased biodiversity on site.	July 2026	Eco lead Science leads All staff and pupils	
Air Quality					
As children transition to secondary and travel further afield, encourage use of public transport and cycling to improve air quality.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Smart moves sessions summer 2 for Y6 cohort to include safe use of public transport. Attendance at Junior Citizenship event for all Y6 cohort (Spelthorne Council)	July 2026	Y6 staff	
Encourage families to continue to try and walk/cycle/scoot to school at least once a week		Assemblies and newsletters Stakeholder survey indicates an increase in walking/cycling/scooting to school Continuation of communication linked to safe parking outside the school gates alongside encouragement of greener travel (anti idling) Continued partnership with SCC and Spelthorne Council	Oct 2026	Headteacher Eco/Sustainability leads	
Travel					
Reduce travel emissions on school trips	Decarbonisation	Consider transport modes for trips and use the best (preferably local) option	Dec 2026	SBM School office	
Energy					
Energy costs are monitored and concerns investigated – including regular recording of meter readings, particularly when the building is not in use.	Decarbonisation	Close monitoring of energy usage leads to reduction in usage and bills – termly and annually	Dec 2026	SBM	
Outdoor space					
Continue to plant trees, shrubs and wild flowers to absorb CO2 and increase biodiversity on the school site.	Adaption and resilience Biodiversity	Increase in the number of trees and flowers on school site leading to higher absorption of CO2 in the environment and an increase in biodiversity – school audits undertaken by pupils	Oct 2026	SBM Caretaker All staff and classes Science leads	
Water					
Water Butts are purchased to collect rain water for planting.	Decarbonisation	Spare or excess water plus rainfall is collected and reused are required.	Sep 2026	SBM Caretaker Eco lead	
Procurement					
Review common resources purchased to identify more sustainable alternatives e.g., paper	Decarbonisation	15% of common purchases moves to more sustainable alternatives.	March 2027	SBM School Office	