



# Climate change and sustainability Action Plan

*“Climate change is real. It is happening right now, it is the most urgent threat facing our entire species and we need to work collectively together and stop procrastinating.”*

**Leonardo Di Caprio, Actor & Environmentalist**

*“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we **borrow** it from our children.”*

**Native American Proverb**

Approved by:	FGB
Date approved:	July 2025
Date of next review:	July 2028

This Climate Action Plan is designed to guide all stakeholders at Ashworth Nursery School in becoming more sustainable and environmentally responsible. As a nursery school, we recognise our role in shaping future generations' attitudes toward environmental stewardship. By taking action to reduce our carbon footprint, conserve resources, and engage our community in climate-friendly practices, we aim to contribute positively to the local and global environment.

This action plan has been created based on research including 'Friends of the Earth' and 'WWF Schools Sustainability Guide'.

### Main Aims

- Reduce the nursery's carbon footprint.
- Promote sustainability and environmental awareness among children, staff, and families.
- Improve energy efficiency and reduce waste.
- Encourage eco-friendly travel and sustainable practices within the school community.

### Travel and Transport

**Current situation:** Children are able to leave bikes / scooters at the main entrance to promote walking / riding to nursery. Use of scooters / bikes currently only happens with afternoon children who are more likely to walk. Staff who live locally are encouraged to walk. Orders are made on an ad-hoc basis meaning deliveries occur when needed. Snack is currently sourced locally and has zero carbon usage from store to nursery. Creamline dairies provide milk are committed to a plan to be net zero by 2045. Local trips are currently walking trips with no carbon footprint.

Objective	Action	By whom	Cost	Time-scale	RAG / Outcome
To encourage more pupils / staff to walk to and from nursery. <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; width: fit-content;">             Curriculum link –              PD riding a              balance bike           </div>	1. Survey – how do we get to nursery? Google forms link to be sent on messaging App	Key Person	Nil	Annual basis – May	
	2. Provide storage for scooters / bikes	SJ/NB	£120	By end of June 2025	
	3. Promote walking to nursery on social media / newsletters	SJ		Termly focus for one newsletter and one post	
To reduce the number of deliveries being made by companies.	1. Bulk order where possible. 2. Check with all members of staff before an order is placed to see if there is anything else we need.	Office team	Nil	Regular / ongoing practice	
Actively choose low carbon options if making trips.	1. Consider if there as an alternative method of transport.	SJ	Nil		

	2. Select taxi's / coach companies with a low carbon footprint.	Office team	Unknown		
<b>Energy and Buildings</b> Current situation: Lights are currently left on and automatically come on in some rooms when not needed. IWB screens can also be left on. We currently have automatic lighting in children's toilets, the disabled toilet, staff toilets and storage corridor. School has joined the 'Let's go zero' campaign and receives updates regarding climate change and sustainability.					
Objective	Action	By whom	Cost	Time-scale	RAG / Outcome
Reduce unnecessary use of energy during the school day.	1. Turn off lights in rooms where either electric light is not needed or when the room is empty.  2. Turn off IWB screens that are not currently in use.  3. Natural ventilation to be used as much as possible - lights off and windows open on hot days / windows and doors closed on cold days.  4. Change light switch in the rainbow room to a manual one enabling it to be turned off when there is sufficient natural light.	All staff          Office team	Nil	Regular / ongoing          End of June 2025	
Ensure lighting is energy efficient.	1. Get a quote for improving internal lighting to energy efficient / LED lighting.  2. Get a quote for upgrading external lighting to energy efficient / LED lighting.  3. Request automatic light switches for the two storage cupboards, corridor to the boiler room and main cloakroom area.	Office team       Office team    Office team		End of June 2025          End of September 2025	
Use A rated energy efficient appliances	1. Replace the washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher with new, energy efficient models. Re-cycle the old appliances.	Office team		End of June 2025	

	2. Replace the under counter fridge and large fridge freezer with A rated appliances when they are ready for renewal.	Office team	TBC	End of July 2027?	
'Earth hour' five minute (minimum) period to be achieved on a daily basis.	Energy-free story time to be incorporated into daily practice. Lights off, no technology.  Staff to use this as an opportunity to educate children about what we are trying to achieve and how we are doing that.	All staff	Nil	Start September 2025  Regular / ongoing practice	

Curriculum link –  
The natural world

### Waste and recycling

Current situation: School currently has two large external bins for non-recyclable waste and mixed recyclable waste. There are two bins for mixed recyclables located in the main classroom and the kitchen. We do not use any single use cutlery or cutlery. Large water containers for pupils to drink from are filled using tap water. Office/ stationery items are re-used where possible such as folders, plastic wallets. Pupils are encouraged to recycle paper and use both sides when drawing / mark making. Empty boxes / packaging and re-used where appropriate and used within the creative area. Paper towels are used frequently in all areas of the setting. Parents are encouraged to donate used uniform for us to pass on to other families through two non-uniform days at the end of the school year.

Objective	Action	By whom	Cost	Time-scale	RAG / Outcome
Reduce the amount of paper towels used.	1. Install an energy efficient hand dryer in the staff toilets and eliminate the use of paper towels in there.	SJ/NB		End of September 2025	
	2. Introduce the use of towels to dry washing up in both the main kitchen and staff kitchen.	SJ		End of June 2025	
	3. Monitor the amount of paper towels used by children when washing their hands.	All staff		Immediately / Ongoing	
Reduce the amount of paper used / photocopying.	Staff to consider if printing / photocopying something is necessary.	All staff		Regular / ongoing practice	
	Sign above printer to remind staff to stop and think. 'Refuse and reduce'.	SJ			

<p>Ensure that 100% of recyclable materials are recycled / disposed of appropriately.</p> <div data-bbox="107 284 416 485" style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: green;">       Curriculum link – The natural world     </div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase new bins for the classroom to clearly explain to pupils what type of waste goes in each one.</li> <li>2. Ensure that recyclable containers within packed lunches are put in the correct bin e.g. yoghurt pots.</li> <li>3. Introduce food waste bins in the staff room and main kitchen and organise collection from Suez.</li> <li>4. Focus events: 'Global recycling day' on 18<sup>th</sup> March activities with the children. Recycling week: 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Promote on social media / newsletters and within learning activities that week.</li> </ol>	<p>NB/NA</p> <p>NB/Lunch staff</p> <p>SJ/NB</p> <p>SC</p>		<p>End of July 2025</p> <p>Immediately / Ongoing</p> <p>To start in September 2025</p> <p>Regular / ongoing practice</p>	
<p>Provide opportunities for families to donate and receive pre-loved uniform and clothing to increase the theme of 're-use'.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce half termly access to pre-loved school uniform so that parents can swap uniform their child has grown out of.</li> <li>2. Introduce a pre-loved clothes/coat rail that parents can access half termly and in between if needed.</li> <li>3. Source clothes donations for the pre-loved clothes rail (freecycle etc).</li> </ol>	<p>NB/NA</p> <p>SJ/NB</p> <p>SJ/All staff</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>To being September 2025</p> <p>To being September 2025</p> <p>To being September 2025</p>	
<p>Create a self-run mini library where pupils / families / the community can swap books to read.</p> <div data-bbox="120 1246 441 1463" style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: green;">       Curriculum link – Literacy Community link     </div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase an outdoor, waterproof book cabinet.</li> <li>2. Install the book cabinet in the outdoor front entrance area.</li> <li>3. Source books for adults and children from freecycle sites / donations.</li> <li>4. Promote the mini library on social media, community centre etc.</li> </ol>	<p>NB</p> <p>AG</p> <p>SJ/All staff</p> <p>SJ</p>	<p>£500</p> <p>£20</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Nil</p>	<p>End of July 2025</p> <p>End of September 2025</p> <p>Immediately / Ongoing</p> <p>Immediately / Ongoing</p>	

## Water

Current situation: We have two water butts to collect rain water which can then be used outdoors to water plants / for water play. Children's sinks have push activated taps which automatically turn off. Children have access to large water containers with re-usable cups eliminating the need for water bottles.

Objective	Action	By whom	Cost	Time-scale	RAG / Outcome
Increase staff awareness around water economy.	1. Staff meeting to cover: Filling the kettle with the amount of water required and not more. Ensuring all taps are turned off. Reporting any leaks to office manager promptly.	All staff	Nil	June 2025	
	2. Any left over water in the large drink containers to be added to either the water butts or used to water the plants.		Nil	Immediately / Ongoing	
	3. Washing machine / dishwasher to be used when there is sufficient washing to be done using an economical cycle.		Nil	Immediately / Ongoing	

## Biodiversity

Current situation: In 2023-2024 a Nature Park Grant (turning grey spaces green) was successfully applied for and this enabled us to purchase new raised planting beds, trees and a wide range of outdoor gardening equipment including the 2<sup>nd</sup> water butt and storage. Some planting was purchased. A raised pond was also purchased. Bird feeders are placed in both the Secret Garden and main outdoor area. Curriculum already includes a unit of work on plant and growth and also mini-beasts and life-cycles. Children are exposed to the life cycle of caterpillars/butterflies and tadpoles/frogs.

Objective	Action	By whom	Cost	Time-scale	RAG / Outcome
Increase the habitats on offer for insects, birds and other creatures.	1. Create a bug hotel using pallets, plant pots, sticks and straw / grass.	All staff	Nil	End of July 2025	
	2. Re-site the bee / insect box to the Secret Garden.	SJ		End of June 2025	
	3. Focus on creating bug houses / animal habitats in the Secret Garden.	SC and Key Workers	£50	Regular / ongoing practice	

Curriculum link –  
The natural world

<p>Increase the food on offer for birds / insects.</p>	<p>1. Focus on creating bird feeders in the Secret Garden.</p> <p>2. Introduce plants that provide natural food sources for insects and promote pollination.</p> <p>3. Introduce a wild flower area which can be kept more natural.</p>	<p>SC and Key Workers</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>	<p>£20</p> <p>£100</p> <p>£50</p>		
<p>Educate the children about the importance of growing plants for food.</p>	<p>1. Create a school 'plants for food' area with strawberry plants, potatoes, apple trees etc which the children can grow, care for and eat.</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>£60</p>		