

Sustainability Policy



Written: September 2025
Status & Review Cycle: Non-statutory, Annual
Next Review Date: September 2026 (or when guidance is updated)



Context

Sustainable education helps us learn how to take care of our planet so that future generations can enjoy it too. Our daily choices, like saving energy, reducing waste, and protecting nature, make a big difference. At school, in line with our school values, we work together to recycle, use less water, and look after our environment.



A healthy planet means a better future for everyone, and by making small, positive changes, we can help keep our world safe and beautiful. Through learning and action, we can all become responsible citizens who care for people, places, and nature.

Aims

At Tatsfield Primary School, we are committed to helping our pupils understand the world around them and the importance of caring for both the planet and its people. Our school embraces a caring ethos for each other and our planet. We ensure that we are mindful of the energy and water we use, the waste we create, the food we provide, and the impact of traffic on our community. We also recognize the challenges faced by people locally and globally.

We value both the natural environment and the human-made world as vital, inspiring parts of life. Guided by these values and developing our Sustainability Action Plan, we take responsibility for protecting our planet for future generations and aim to:

- Promote a lifelong commitment to sustainability on personal, national, and global levels
- Empower children to be responsible and positive citizens in society
- Encourage pupils to engage in decision-making about the school's environmental priorities
- Monitor, measure, and actively reduce our environmental impact in key areas, including:
 - Transport (staff and parents)
 - Water conservation
 - Waste reduction (reduce, reuse, recycle)
 - Energy efficiency (gas and electricity)
 - Sustainable procurement (using Fairtrade products, recycled paper, and eco-friendly cleaning materials)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher and SLT

- Make sure staff CPD plans cover sustainability, e.g. including climate change and sustainability in teachers' CPD, and providing sustainable usage training for all staff
- To create and develop sustainability links and quality outdoor education within our curriculum
- Work with our school premises and our Trust Finance staff to look at where to invest money to reduce carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and resilience
- Develop awareness and plans for a whole-school approach to food
- Approve policies that have been reviewed, considering sustainability and quality outdoor education opportunities
- Communicate trust-wide values of environmentalism, sustainability, and respect for the natural world
- Develop, deliver and monitor our school's climate action plan
- Communicate the sustainability policy to the school community

Sustainability lead

- Receive carbon literacy training and co-ordinate delivery of this training to all staff (if needed)
- Identify appropriate areas of the school grounds to use as an environmental classroom
- Encourage whole-school participation in environmental awareness days such Recycling Week, as [Earth Day](#) (22 April), [World Ocean Day](#) (8 June) and [Clean Air Day](#) (15 June), participate in The Big Plastic Week
- Lead a whole school sustainability audit to identify current and future opportunities for change
- Develop wider learning opportunities (such as eco-club or gardening club) to help pupils learn about nature outside of the curriculum

Subject Leaders

- Carry out a sustainability audit for their subject, identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world, sustainable practices, and the circular economy
- Identify ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects, e.g. reducing printing
- Where possible, incorporate sustainability approaches (including Forest School and outdoor education opportunities) into their curriculum area

Trust Finance Team

- Carry out sustainable procurement practices by considering usage, waste and supply chains as part of the assessment and validation criteria used when purchasing goods and services
- Identify funding opportunities for sustainable development and lead bids for that funding, e.g. smart meters, low-carbon boiler replacement
- Communicate waste reduction practices in school to encourage sustainable and cost-effective behaviour, e.g. limiting printing, and turning off lights

Premises Team

- Keep the school site clean and safe for effective outdoor learning
- Maintain verges around the school sports pitches as wild grassland areas to encourage biodiversity
- Make sure all lights, taps, and unnecessary appliances are switched off at the end of each day
- Conduct energy and water usage audits at the end of every term

Governors/Trustees

- Consider and implement strategies for the trust to reduce waste by sharing resources between schools
- Monitor the impact of this policy

The National Curriculum

The DfE's strategy, linked above, highlights the role of schools in engaging directly with children, who:

- Are passionate about the natural world
- Want to do their best to protect the natural world
- Can influence their wider communities

Sustainability has clear links with the National Curriculum – Science, Geography, the Arts as well as PSHE and Citizenship. This also links closely to our school values and outdoor education curriculum. Over the next academic year under these categories, we aim to:

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• review our curriculum to consider further sustainability links and quality outdoor education• encourage whole-school participation in environmental awareness days such Recycling Week, as Earth Day (22 April), World Ocean Day (8 June) and Clean Air Day (15 June)• develop our eco-club or gardening club to help pupils learn about nature outside of the curriculum
Food and catering	Alongside our catering company, we pledge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promote pupils' understanding of food and where it comes from• participate in 'Meat-free Mondays'• monitor food and menus in wrap-around care to avoid waste
Waste and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have labelled bins throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste• wherever possible, compost food waste from the kitchen and class food bins and use this to support the growth of food and other plants on the school site through composting.• teach pupils about the several types of bins they might have in their homes and encourage them to continue good recycling habits when they are not at school• wherever possible, reduce paper waste by printing on both sides of paper, having scrap-paper drawers and using emails as much as possible• encourage staff to consider what materials can be reused the following year, when clearing out their classrooms at the end of a term or year• encourage pupils to bring reusable water bottles into school or use school washable cups rather than using disposable single-use plastics• encourage families to make their costumes, wear PJs or use the PTA preloved shop for World Book Day and other themed days, rather than buying new costumes.• encourage parents to make use of the PTA nearly new sales or coat swap events rather than purchase new uniform• take part in the PTA clothes collection service to recycle unwanted clothes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through our Finance Team, consider sustainability as part of the assessment and validation criteria for including suppliers on procurement frameworks, to support the sustainable purchasing of products and services
Energy and water	<p>We aim to reduce energy consumption with steps such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • switching off lights and appliances when they are not in use • teaching pupils to understand the importance of switching off lights/appliances and saving energy • conducting a thermal heating audit and then installing draft excluders to retain warm air and reduce energy consumption for heating • continue to audit the amount of energy used each term • turning off taps when not in use • displaying posters reminding pupils of the importance of turning off taps and saving water • continue to audit water usage every term • ensuring all bulbs are LEDs
Transport and travel	<p>We pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin the 'Feet First Walking Training' initiative • sign up for 'bikeability' cycle safety lessons for all pupils in Year 6. • encourage school staff and parents to share lifts to off-site training wherever possible to reduce car use • audit the carbon footprint of our school trips
Buildings and grounds	<p>We aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure that there are enough rubbish bins and organise a litter-picking teams to keep our school site clean • continue to use the forest area and pond, protecting our natural habitats, and use them as an opportunity to teach pupils about the natural world • continue to develop new areas of biodiversity on the school site, by planting hedgerows