



THORNGUMBALD
PRIMARY

Sustainability Climate Action Plan

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Caring for our Planet at Thorngumbald Primary School

Climate change is the long-term warming of the Earth caused mainly by human activity, such as burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests. This is already affecting weather patterns, wildlife and the natural world around us.

At Thorngumbald Primary School, we believe it is important that children learn about these changes in a positive and age-appropriate way. We want them to understand what is happening, but also to feel hopeful and empowered—knowing that small actions really can make a big difference.

The Department for Education has asked all schools to create a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. This plan will help us show how we are working to protect the environment and support national and global efforts to tackle climate change.

What this means for our School Community

We are committed to teaching our pupils how to care for the planet, use resources wisely, and take pride in looking after their local area. We want children to understand how their choices affect the environment and to develop good habits that will stay with them for life.

As a school at the heart of the village, we also see ourselves as leaders in promoting positive environmental behaviour. We hope the knowledge and enthusiasm our pupils gain in school will inspire families and the wider community too.

Our action plan focuses on four key areas:

1. **Reducing our carbon footprint** (for example, saving energy and avoiding waste).
2. **Preparing for future climate changes** (like extreme heat or heavy rain).
3. **Protecting and improving nature and wildlife.**
4. **Teaching about climate change and future green jobs.**

Throughout their time at Thorngumbald Primary, children will spend time in nature, learn how to care for the environment, and take part in activities that improve our school grounds and community. They will also learn how everyday actions—such as saving energy and reducing waste—help protect the planet.

Most importantly, we want our pupils to grow up feeling confident, responsible and hopeful about the future of our world.

Action Plan for Change

Action	DfE Link	Target	Timescale	Responsibility	Evaluation
Buildings and Grounds					
Grow plants inside of school – children to learn about plants and their importance in our lives.	Biodiversity	Children to see plants around them and use them as a tool for learning. Studies show that indoor plants help purify the air, reduce stress and increase productivity and creativity.	Spring 2026	All staff	
Develop a biodiversity area (wildflower meadow, bug hotels, ponds)	Biodiversity	As part of Forest Schools and outdoor learning, the children will encourage animals and nature to the school. Children able to see the natural world on their door step –bees pollinating, butterflies hatching, ... etc.	Year 1–2	Forest School Leader Eco Lead / Gardening Club	
Create outdoor learning spaces for all year groups	CCSS – Outdoor Learning	Children to spend as much time as possible out of the classroom and in ‘fresh air’. Outdoor learning to be planned for. Lunch times and break times – children outside as much as possible (ensure weather appropriate clothing being worn).	Year 1	Teaching Staff	Staggered lunchtimes to reduce queuing for lunches.

Forest Schools for all children in the school – looking after the green areas.	Climate Education and Green Careers	All children to have at least one outdoor Forest School session per week: Connecting with nature has been proven time and time again to work wonders for our wellbeing. At school, nature connections can help boost children's moods, improve focus and help them to feel less stressed and anxious.	Autumn 2026	All teachers Forest School Leader	
Conduct full energy-efficiency audit of school buildings	Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy (CCSS) – Estate Improvement	Identify inefficiencies and create improvement plan	Autumn Term	Headteacher Caretaker	
Food					
Grow food on the school site to inspire the children to grow food at home – vegetables and fruit (fruit bushes and trees etc).	Biodiversity	All children to have the experiences of growing plants and harvesting them. All children to cook some of the produce they grow. Photos of 'growing' to be shared on the school website – promote it at school and hopefully then at home.	Termly	All staff Forest School Leader	
Use compost bins in school and encourage to use at home.	Climate education and green careers	Children to use the compost bin in school – little brown bins to be emptied in to the compost bins. Children to know why we do composting.	Summer 2026	All staff	
Introduce termly healthy eating workshops	CCSS – Health & Wellbeing	Pupils understand sustainable diets	Ongoing	RSHE Lead	
Food on the curriculum – educate about	Decarbonisation	Teachers to inform the children where the food has come from – how far it has travelled – and to know how we know this.	Ongoing	All teachers	

food waste – food miles.					
Energy					
Introduce energy-saving behaviours (switch-off protocols)	CCSS – Energy Behaviour Change	All staff and children responsible for switching off lights, electric equipment after use – create NOT STANDBY signs, posters, newsletters etc.	Ongoing	All Staff / Eco Council	
Heating between 18 – 20 degrees. Windows to be closed when the heating is on – keep the warmth in.	Decarbonisation	Thermostats set at 18degrees. When the heating is on – windows are to remain closed. Turn the heaters off and save energy – not waste it.	Autumn 2025	All staff	
LED lighting when replacing lights / bulbs.	Decarbonisation	Replace old light fittings and bulbs with LED energy efficient versions.	Ongoing	SLT Care taker	
Orchestrate ‘power down’ day to raise awareness of having no energy usage.	Decarbonisation	Let the children see what a day in school would be like with no power (limited). A learning opportunity for the children and staff – power cut experience.	Summer 2026	All staff	
Water					
Monitor the school’s water meter and how best to not waste water.	Climate education and green careers	Monitor the water being used each term and look for patterns in usage. Explore methods of saving water – water butts etc for Forest Schools.	Termly	SLT	

Provide pupil education on water conservation	CCSS – Sustainability Education	Part of Geography work and our local area. Where does our local water go and come from? What does the water provide us with ...? How can we save water in school and at home? Think of ways to promote saving water and promote them.	Summer 2026	All teachers	
Use water butts in the school grounds – save water.	Climate education and green careers	School to have water butts to collect water to then be used in the watering of plants in school in Forest Schools and outdoor learning opportunities.	Spring 2026	SLT Forest School Leader	
Transport					
Use Bikeability and Pro Ride to encourage children to ride safely to and from school – bikes and scooters.	Decarbonisation	All children to be supported in learning to ride / scoot. Progress to be made as the children go through the school so that they can cycle / scoot safely to and from school – on their own in Years 5 and 6.	Ongoing	SLT	
Survey how children and staff travel to school.	Climate education and green careers	Conduct a survey and analyse the results – how can we get more staff and children to walk or wheel to school? Create a walk bus for children – pick up the children.	Spring 2026	SLT	
Encourage Year 5 and Year 6 children to walk to and from school.	Decarbonisation	Promote walking / cycling to school for the older children on their own. (Year 5 and 6) Look at it as a sign responsibility and maturity – as well as helping the environment.	September 2025	SLT Class 3 staff	

Climate map and impact for school trips.	Decarbonisation	Explore the different options of travel for school trips – look at the carbon footprint as well as costs for trips.	Ongoing	Trip leaders	
Consumption / Waste					
Encourage ALL to recycle plastic and glass.	Climate education and green careers	Look at packed lunches and what do with the plastic packaging – where should it go and why? Educate children on recycling in school and at home.	Ongoing	All staff All children	
Second hand uniform swap / shop. Also for toys, games, books etc	CCSS – Circular Economy	Swap shops and sales in place for parents to ‘exchange / buy’ uniform. Look at a moneyless sale using tokens which means you have to bring something to get a token.	Termly	PTA / Eco Lead	
Develop a complete paperless communication system with parents.	CCSS – Resource Management	All communication to be paperless by the end of the school year.	Autumn 2025	Admin Team	
Litter picks in village – share with the community to raise awareness.	Biodiversity	Keep on locality tidy and evidence what the school has collected.	Termly	All classes	
Minimise the school’s paper use – printing only what is necessary and printing on both sides.	Decarbonisation	Printer settings set at default – black and white and double sided.	December 2025	All staff	

Curriculum					
Run annual Sustainability Week	CCSS – Climate Education	Evidence of curriculum links across subjects Whole-school participation.	Annually	All teachers	Currently within some curriculum areas.
Seek out good practice to inspire about climate change.	Climate education and green careers	Explore good practice and initiatives: Net Zero Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel etc	Termly	All staff	
School to have an Eco Warrior / Green Team in place and children to support the development of the school environment – more usable green spaces.	Climate education and green careers	Eco Warrior / Green Team in place. Seek awards for environment and climate work.	July 2026	Forest School Leader	
Assemblies each term on what we are doing around climate change and how to improve – inform children of local and national initiatives.	Climate education and green careers	Termly assemblies on themes of climate change. Eco Warriors to help with assemblies to promote child voice as well as sustainability issues.	Termly	All teachers Forest School Leader Eco Warriors	
School trip each year to a place of	Climate education and green careers	All classes to go on a school trip – out of the school grounds to see nature and wildlife at	July 2026	All teachers	

'nature and wildlife'.		work. (Paull Holme Strays or woods in Paull, pond dipping, Food and Farming etc.)		Forest School Leader	
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