Climate Action Plan

Version 1.0 (December 2025)

St. James' School

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Our Sustainability Mission Statement

"Our family of Ted Wragg Trust schools is committed to leading with purpose in building a sustainable future. Through our Climate Action Plans, we aim to embed sustainability into all aspects of decision-making—from purchases and transport choices to resource management—ensuring that environmental considerations are central to our strategic actions.

We recognise that effective leadership in sustainability requires both securing our roots and expanding our reach: safeguarding the foundations of our schools while innovating to amplify our impact on students, staff, and the wider community. By aligning our policies and practices with these values, we sustain our success and demonstrate responsible stewardship of the planet, inspiring others to join us on this journey toward a greener, more resilient future."

5 Pillars of the Climate Action Plan

1. Leadership and Policy
2. Decarbonisation
3. Biodiversity
4. Adaptation and Resilience
5. Climate Education and Green Skills

This is more than just a government strategy – it is our opportunity to empower our community to make small steps in the right direction.

Background to the Climate Action Plan

Department of Education Guidance

Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education

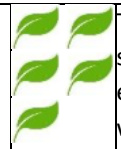
The sustainability and climate change strategy for education states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Further information - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education

Scoring - 

Decarbonisation

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost	Time	Notes	Envi Impact	Cost Impact	Notes	Date Completed
				Score (1-5)	Score (1-5)		Score (1-5)	Score (1-5)		
Energy Saving Competition Posters	Primary School focus This can be tied into classroom activities. An assembly can be delivered to launch and celebrate the competition.	JRW	Month			Could be done through an elective group. Use school signage / display boards to promote.			This is a first step in saving energy – not easy to monitor without smart meters	
Run a switch-off campaign to encourage staff and pupils to turn off unused lights, appliances, and electronics.	A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions can make energy efficiency a long-term habit. Have specific days when there is a school focus on 'Switching off' This may be more practical to do in the spring/summer term	JRW	Spring 2026 Elective			No costs except promotional materials. Time to launch and supporting during event. Could be done through an elective group.			Reduces unnecessary electricity usage, lowering the school's carbon footprint. This is a first step in saving energy – not easy to monitor without smart meters.	
Energy Consumption monitoring.	Monitor smart meters to review energy consumption at different times of day, the week, weekends, and holidays.		Month			Schools that have smart meters can monitor this on a 30-minute basis. Should be able to access via a website. Schools without will transition to Smart Meters soon.			This will allow the school to save energy/money by not heating/running appliances outside of core hours.	

Solar power generation	The aspect and size of the roof of SJ is both perfect and substantial. It should be covered in solar panels		Week			PFI permitting.			This is a first step in saving energy – not easy to monitor without smart meters	
Green Commuting	Raise the profile of cycling, car-sharing, and EVs among the staff body. Get EV charging points installed on site (*PFI permitting. Raise awareness of salary sacrifice schemes with staff. Part of this could include an audit to find out who commutes and how. That would give a tangible baseline to see if more people opt to vary or change their commuting habits.	HR/J RW	Spring 26			Costs are hard to state given the varied nature of aspects of commuting. For example, EV installation would be very costly Yet encouraging staff the buy a bicycle via salary sacrifice costs nothing for the school.				

Biodiversity

Scoring - 

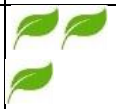
Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
Increase biodiversity school-wide. Convert unused areas (or short-cut grasses areas) into green spaces to support biodiversity.	Transform unused into green spaces by planting native plants**, installing wild grass patches, or creating small gardens. Increasing green space improves air quality, provides habitats for wildlife, and creates healthier environments for students. Trees would provide greater shade areas (the southern side of the top field for example.)	JRW/JSW (Elective group option)				Costs vary depending on landscaping needs and plant selection. Free saplings available by applying to the woodlandtrust.org *PFI permission? (** especially considering the negative impact the removal of the mature oak tree has had on passive solar heating of the building)			Plants absorb CO2, improve air quality, and support ecosystem, reduce evaporation, reduce temperatures by providing shade through reduced heat island effects	
Create a School Pollinator Garden / Mini Meadows Plant a pollinator-friendly garden to support bees and butterflies.	A school pollinator garden provides a habitat for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. By planting native wildflowers and nectar-rich plants, schools can contribute to	JSW/				Costs include seeds, soil, and occasional maintenance. Initial setup requires planting and occasional upkeep. *PFI permission?			Supports carbon sequestration and ecosystem balance. Low direct savings but potential educational benefits.	

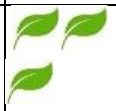
	biodiversity and support local ecosystems.									
Build an Insect Hotel Build habitats for insects and small mammals using log piles and wood pallets.	Log piles and disused wood pallets can be used to create a natural habitat for insects, amphibians, and fungi, enhancing biodiversity and promoting decomposition processes. They can be strategically placed in school gardens to serve as learning tools for ecology studies.	JSW	Autumn term 25			Uses natural and recycled materials, making it a low-cost initiative. Quick to implement and requires no maintenance.			Supports ecosystem health indirectly. No direct cost savings.	Completed by JSW!
Conduct a nature survey Assess the biodiversity of school grounds and surrounding areas.	Conduct nature surveys to document the species of plants, insects, and animals found on school grounds. This information can help identify areas for biodiversity improvement, such as adding nesting boxes, planting native species, or reducing pesticide use. Engaging pupils in biodiversity monitoring promotes conservation awareness and scientific curiosity.	JRW/JSW	Autumn 25 (JSW) Spring 26 (JRW)			No significant cost, beyond materials for recording observations.			No direct impact but fosters school-wide conservation awareness. No direct financial savings but potentially could be - dependent on the findings of the survey.	

Habitat map – National Education Nature Park	*West Exe School have done this. I have registered with Nature Park. Have not investigated further at this stage.	JRW	Spring/ Summer 26							

Adaptation & Resilience

Scoring - 

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost	Time	Notes	Envi Impact	Cost Impact	Notes	Date Completed
				Score (1-5)	Score (1-5)		Score (1-5)	Score (1-5)		
Undertake a roof/gutter survey using the TWT Estates Drone	Ask the TWT Estates team to fly your campus buildings to check roofs and gutters for blockages or damage. If done twice a year pre-Autumn leaf fall and early Spring. This will avoid damage from blockages and identify maintenance issues.		Day			Costs nothing, just need to notify the school that a drone will be flown over the school – done during lessons or before/after school. Schools near Exeter Airport – Estates will communicate with CAA for clearance.				
Uniform adaptation based on forecast	Have a dynamic uniform policy in time of more extreme temperatures.	S Morby				Temperatures in south-facing aspect classrooms already regularly record temperatures in the mid-30s (Autumn 23, Summer 25)				Already in place
<u>Fit solar film on the windows</u> Apply solar film to windows to reduce heat gain and energy consumption.	Installing solar film on windows helps regulate indoor temperatures by reducing heat gain in Summer (through passive solar) and heat loss in winter. This reduces the reliance on air conditioning and heating systems, leading to lower energy		month			Moderate cost but provides long-term energy savings and improved classroom comfort. Quick installation with minimal disruption to			The Atrium would be the place to start. Without the oak tree, the issue of passive solar is already problematic.	

	consumption and improved comfort in classrooms. Solar film also reduces glare, protects furniture from UV damage, and extends the lifespan of interior materials by preventing sun-related wear.					school activities. PFI permitting.			Reduces energy consumption for heating and cooling, lowering overall carbon emissions. Lowers utility bills by improving thermal efficiency, reducing air conditioning reliance	
<u>Audit and Reduce Single-Use Plastics</u> Identify and eliminate unnecessary plastic waste in school operations.	Schools can conduct an audit of their plastic use, identifying areas where single-use plastics can be eliminated or replaced with sustainable alternatives. This includes plastic cutlery, straws, and packaging materials. Encouraging the use of reusable water bottles and lunch containers can also contribute to waste reduction.		Month			Minimal costs associated with switching to reusable alternatives. Conducting an audit and implementing changes requires planning.			Reduces plastic production and landfill waste. Saves costs on disposable plastic products.	

Climate Education and Green Skills

Scoring - 

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
Introduce a Sustainability Lesson in Every Subject Integrate sustainability topics into all subjects to build pupil awareness.	Embedding sustainability into the curriculum across all subjects helps pupils develop an awareness of environmental issues. Science classes can discuss climate change, geography can cover ecosystems, and mathematics can explore energy consumption statistics. By integrating sustainability into daily learning, pupils can develop a mindset of environmental responsibility and apply these principles beyond the classroom.	SLT/JRW				Requires little to no funding, as it involves modifying existing lesson plans. Some time will be needed to adapt curriculum materials and train teachers.			Long-term behavioural change among students can lead to emissions reductions. No direct financial savings but may lead to reduced resource consumption over time.	
<u>Organise a pupil-led Energy and Waste Audit</u> Engage pupils in assessing the school's energy use and waste production.	A school-wide audit allows pupils to evaluate energy use and waste production, identifying areas for improvement. This hands-on approach helps pupils understand real-world sustainability challenges and implement practical solutions such as reducing electricity use, recycling more effectively, and cutting down on single-use plastics.	JRW	Spring 26 Elective			Minimal costs involved, as audits require staff and pupil participation. Requires data collection, analysis, and action planning.			Identifying inefficiencies can significantly cut emissions. Potential cost savings from improving energy and resource efficiency.	

Create a School Eco Committee Establish a pupil-led group to drive sustainability initiatives.	A school eco committee (elective group) gives pupils the opportunity to lead sustainability projects, influence school policies, and advocate for environmental improvements. This initiative fosters leadership, encourages responsibility					No cost beyond organising meetings. Requires commitment to regular meetings and project work.			Leads to long-term environmental improvements. Indirect financial benefits through improved sustainability practices.	

Further support and information:

- **Sustainability Lead contact details: Mr Jonathan Wood - jonathan.wood@stjamesexeter.co.uk**

- **Climate Ambassadors:** Matching climate experts with education settings. Visit Website
- **Education Nature Park:** Go on a journey to get to know your outdoor space and use creative decision -making to improve your grounds for people and nature. Visit Website
- **Sustainability Support for education:** Enabling schools to start their sustainability journey. Visit Website
- **Transform Our World**: Offers a Climate Action Planner for schools. Visit Website
- **Climate Friendly Schools**: Provides templates and resources. Visit Website
- **WWF –** School Sustainability Guide. Visit Website
- **British Gas - Get Set for Positive Energy**: Supports energy-saving initiatives. Visit Website
- **EDF Energy - Net Zero Challenge**: Encourages student-led climate projects. Visit Website