

Kirton Primary School

Primary School Sustainability & Climate Action Plan

Aligned with DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy



Plan Duration: 2025 – 2030



School Name: Kirton Primary School



Review Cycle: Annually (every October)

We believe 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 support and empower the children to make their contribution in the widest sense by taking responsibility for their own school, the wider local community and in years to come, the world!

Vision & Commitment

Our school is committed to embedding sustainability in all aspects of school life — from teaching and operations to community engagement — in line with the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

We aim to:

- Reduce our environmental impact
- Prepare pupils for a changing world
- Become a model for sustainability within our community

Leadership and Governance

Objective	Actions	Responsibility
Appoint a Sustainability Lead	Assign a staff member to lead the plan and liaise with DfE and local authorities	SLT
Establish a Sustainability Working Group (including pupils)	Group to meet half-termly to oversee implementation	Sustainability Lead
Include sustainability in the School Development Plan	Embed climate and sustainability targets	SLT



Community & Partnerships

Objective	Actions	Responsibility
Engage parents and community	Sustainability events; newsletter updates; gardening days	PTA, Eco Club
Partner with local organisations	Link with council, wildlife trusts, recycling groups	Sustainability Lead

Through our curriculum and additional provision, children explore not just their role in helping the environment but in how they can shape their community and the world they will grow up in.

Our climate change team consists of:

- Mr Stanfield - Sustainability Lead / Eco-Committee Chair
 - Mrs Harker – School Business Manager
 - Mr Baker & Mr Young – Site Managers
 - Eco Warriors (pupil group)

Climate Change and Sustainability team to feedback to SLT with any concerns or ideas and will be invited to a management meeting once a year for in-person updates based on this action plan.

The plan is split into two sections:

- Section 1: Commitment to continue with the actions we are already taking
- Section 2: Action Plan for change

Kirton Primary School is committed to continue with the following actions:

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate education and green careers	We have a whole school approach which incorporates climate change into the curriculum (science, geography and PSHE) and everyday school life.	HT
2	Climate education and green careers	We continue to seek out good practice for inspiration and shared learning with other education providers on learning about climate change. This includes CPD of teachers to further engage pupils.	HT and Climate Ambassadors.
3	Climate education and green careers	Through lessons, and the curriculum plan we encourage behavioural change by the students to help within the school environment and wider community.	All teachers
4	Climate education and green careers	The Gardening Club, targeted interventions and parts of the science curriculum at Kirton Primary School allow young people to learn about nature in their local area.	AC
5	Climate education and green careers	Teach pupils about how to reduce/eliminate single-use plastics at home and school	HT
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation	Clear recycling system in place for paper: waste paper separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Site Manager

2	Decarbonisation	Second hand uniform available for free for parents every half term – unclaimed lost property and donations	FW
3	Decarbonisation	Paperless communication with parents.	Admin Team
4	Decarbonisation	Clothes bank at school regularly used by parents	FW
5	Decarbonisation	Recyclable waste to be separated from non-recyclable and food waste.	Site Manager
6	Decarbonisation	“Let’s Talk Rubbish” recycling and waste awareness County Council initiative used in school.	KG

Food

1	Decarbonisation	Catering supplier have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste through packaging and menu design.	LL
2	Climate education and green careers	Vegetarian options always on offer. The menu also includes a meat free Friday.	LL

3	Climate education and green careers	Lunch time is 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 they do not have enough time to eat.	LL
4	Climate education and green careers	Children number of choices for lunch needs to remain static (or improve) giving them the widest choice of something they want to eat, alongside reducing wastage of over-cooking through pre-orders.	LL

Air Quality

1	Climate education and green careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike, scooter to reduce pollution near school. There are two bike racks across the school.	Mental Health Team
2	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality.	Site Manager
3	Adaptation and resilience	Air quality / carbon dioxide monitors around the school show the air quality is good – this is monitored.	Site Manager

Travel

1	Decarbonisation	Bike rack in playground supports pupils keeping their bikes / scooters safely in school after travelling.	Site Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Parents/Carers of pupils in KS2 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from school.	HT

Reducing Energy

1	Decarbonisation	Reminders to staff (via email / signs) to switch off all lights, appliances and plugs when not in use.	Site Manager / HT
2	Decarbonisation	Heating turned down by 1 degree from the previous year.	Site Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Room thermometers are used to monitor temperature levels, for heating purposes we maintain the following temperature levels: washrooms and circulation areas – some radiators turned off / down	Site Manager

4	Decarbonisation	Reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	Site Manager
5	Decarbonisation	Some corridor, storage spaces and toilet lights are set on timers to reduce usage. LED lighting Installation costs in some parts of the premises to be looked into.	Site Manager

Outdoor Space

1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school including outdoor learning sessions for every pupil.	Eco Committee. Gardening Club.
2	Biodiversity	Birdbaths, feeders, bird houses, bug hotels, bee hotels, pond all installed and maintained to support local wildlife.	Eco Committee. Gardening Club.
3	Climate education and green careers	Students are involved in looking after our green spaces – gardening club for example.	Eco Committee. Gardening Club.
4	Biodiversity	Wild patches left and wild-flower areas allowed to grow naturally.	Gardening Club.
5	Biodiversity	No chemicals are used to aid growth of the plants within our outside space to help wildlife.	SLT.
6	Climate education and green careers	Gardening club run by experienced practitioner providing learner-led exploration and discovery, nurturing meaningful experiences for positive, lifelong impacts.	SLT.

Water

1	Climate education and green careers	Curriculum plans include learning about local water scarcity, flood protection and hazard risks to encourage a culture of saving, rather than wasting water and to encourage creative ideas for how water can be saved at school.	SLT. Subject Working Parties.
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2	Adaption and Resilience	Timed taps used in the children's toilet to minimise water waste.	Site Managers.
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Procurement

1	Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste.	Business Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used.	Business Manager

Action Plan for change

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
1.Find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, especially in subjects where it may usually be absent such as art or history.	Climate education and green careers	Evidence of curriculum links across subjects i.e. An art project showing the impact of climate change	Evident by September 2026	SLT – art or DT subject working party.	
2.Promoting green careers to pupils	Climate education and green careers	Highlight ‘green careers’ in Climate/Environment Assembly	February 2026	Subject leaders or SLT.	
3.Gardening Club offered throughout the year.	Climate education and green careers	Lunchtime Gardening Club offered at least once a week throughout the year.	July 2026	Eco Committee lead.	
Waste					
1.Work with school IT Technician to identify electronic hardware no longer used in school and to recycle products	Decarbonisation	Safely recycle 75% of electronic hardware in school.	April 2026	SLT	
2. Provide recycling opportunities for a range of products (i.e. soft plastics, batteries etc.)	Decarbonisation	Additional recycling stations at school Items in school recycled/reused/re-purposed	April 2026	Business Manager	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Food					
1.Encourage students and staff to bring plastic free packed lunches.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Develop understanding for pupils of importance of reducing plastic in the environment – highlighted in Climate / Environment	April 2026	DHT	

		Assembly. Use of social media. Parents Messaged directly from school. Reduction in waste			
2.Work with new catering provider (starting Sept 2026) to ensure continued meat free day and all other days to have vegetarian option on the menu, more choices of menu items, less plastic for packed lunches than is currently the case.	Decarbonisation	Pupils to always have vegetarian option available to them.	Sept 2026	Business Manager / SLT	
3.Use the school garden area to grow vegetables that can be used by the school kitchen.	Decarbonisation	Pupils growing at least three different types of vegetables in the school garden which can be used by school caterers.	July 2025	Eco Committee and Garden Club Lead.	Coronation garden used weekly. Gardening Club started.

Air quality

1.Encourage children to choose walking and cycling routes to school that are safe and with less traffic and pollution.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Highlight benefits to the environment of walking /cycling to school. More pupils / parents walking and cycling to school.	April 2026	Eco Committee – assembly.	
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Travel

1.Complete a school survey 'mode of travel' question to provide a baseline of mode of travel for school data.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Survey completed to create a baseline to measure against for future years.	January 2026	Business Manager	
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Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
2.Reducing travel emissions on school trips.	Decarbonisation	Consider transport modes for trips – add to trip checklist (sharing coaches	Sept 2026	PE Working Party.	

		with other schools for sports trips).			
Energy					
1.Heating controls to be used to limit timings and temperature across school	Decarbonisation	Heating control panel checked and working correctly. Room thermostats used to monitor room temperatures throughout the day.	April 2026	Site Manager	
2. Energy costs are monitored and concerns investigated – including regular use of energy viewer to ensure reduction in energy, particularly when building not in use.	Decarbonisation	Closer monitoring of energy usage in school leading to reduction in the amount of energy usage. Lowering of thermostats.	May 2026	Site Manager	
3. Some toilet lights are set on timers to reduce usage.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in energy usage.	September 2026	Site Manager Business Manager	
4. LED lighting installation costed across the site (one section at a time if needed)	Decarbonisation	Reduction in energy use and product replacement costs.	May 2026	Site Manager Business Manager	
Outdoor Space					
1. Maintain trees and flowers to absorb more CO2 from the atmosphere.	Adaption and Resilience	Increase the amounts of trees and flowers on school site leading to higher absorption of CO2 in environment.	July 2026	Gardening Club Lead. Eco Committee.	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Water					
1.Encourage staff, parents and pupils to use refillable water bottles and educate them to pour leftover water onto the garden.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Less disposables being used at in school. Leftover water being re-used for plant watering in Coronation Gardens.	January 2026	Eco Committee	
2.Findings and progress about water conservation is shared with the school community, to involve staff, pupils and parents by raising awareness we aim to get all groups on board with adopting water saving habits (these ideas will be delivered by the Eco Committee in assemblies).	Climate Education and Green Careers	Better understanding by the school community of the importance of water conservation both at home and school.	July 2026	SLT Eco Committee	
Procurement					
1. Review common purchases to identify more sustainable alternatives.	Decarbonisation	15% of common purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	April 2026	Business Manager	
2. Consider cost and feasibility of moving current school bank account to ethical bank account.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in carbon usage due to ethical banking practices.	April 2026	Business Manager / SLT.	
3. Once purchases have reached end of life, is there an alternative use? Consider how items can be repurposed / reused – OPAL etc.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in waste / skip use More items recycled/repurposed	April 2026	SLT Site Manager	