



Portway Junior School

Climate Action Plan

'This policy has been reviewed on ... and has been impact assessed in the light of all other school policies and the Equality Act 2010.'

Document Control

Version: 1
Date approved: December 2025
Approved by: Head teacher
Next review: December 2026

Data will be processed to be in line with our requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act as amended by the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

Introduction

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference. This plan is a living document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge. Portway Junior School recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with the UK Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education and the DfE's Climate Action Plan Guidance.

Vision and Objectives

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils alike.

Vision:

To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2025.
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.
- Increase biodiversity within our footprint.
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.

Current Achievements

Verified Sustainability Projects completed by Portway Junior School

Outdoor Learning in the school grounds

Portway makes extensive use of its on-site outdoor learning area, which has taken several years to develop into a thriving forest school with extensive planting of trees and shrubs for biodiversity. The forest school is for all children and work on a rotation basis and covers:

- Weekly nature exploration
- Skills development such as whittling, fire lighting and den building
- Wildlife observations – birds, badgers, squirrels and mini-beasts
- Ecosystem education and conservation ethics
- Replanting to increase biodiversity

This initiative supports environmental literacy, wellbeing and biodiversity.

Recycled Materials

The school extensively engages in recycling activities.

Food waste is separated at source and after the children have eaten

Separate waste collections are organised for differing recyclable waste

Recycling bins are in place around the school and in each classroom where pupils are taught to separate out paper/cardboard and other recyclable waste

LED Lighting Installed – Trust Initiative using Government Grant Money

It was identified during the trusts building condition review that the school had old & aging lighting fixtures and consumables that were not energy efficient. These were increasingly costly in terms of energy consumption & replacement lamps. We commissioned an initial proposal through our partners, which showed the impact & benefits at every level that an LED conversion would make. We then used government grant funding to deliver the works in August used this data to obtain government grant funding to deliver the works in 2024.

Trust Provision of Energy Sparks

The trust provide the school with an Energy Sparks account that provides the following:
Access to pupil activities with supporting resources to increase energy and carbon literacy.

Guidance on adult-led, low and no-cost energy saving actions

Regular newsletters, blogs, advice, ideas and tips

Records all activities that are completed

Management tool that analyses gas and electric data, a dashboard with key insights and alerts and an easy to understand pupil dashboard. An energy audit has been completed and subsequently the school has set an energy saving target, the progress of this can be tracked on the site.

Water Use

During the summer of 2024 the school replaced all taps in the building with automatic on/off taps to save water use.

Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. The Sustainability Lead will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Theme	Actions	Timeline	Lead	Resources Needed
Leadership & Governance	Appoint a Sustainability Lead	Autumn 2025	Headteacher appointed October 2025	N/A
Energy & Carbon	Eco-council to complete Energy Sparks student led activities and monitor school's progress toward its target	Academic Year	Sustainability Lead	Energy Sparks

	Sustainability Lead to work with others in school to completed adult led activities			
Waste & Recycling	Expand recycling to include batteries	Spring 2025	Sustainability Lead	Investigate where to get a battery recycling box and how they are disposed of
Biodiversity	Continue to plant a range of trees, shrubs and flowers to increase biodiversity	Academic Year	Forest School Lead & Site Manager	Research free trees, plants that can be planted around the school grounds
Curriculum Integration	Embed sustainability in Science, Geography and PSHE. Develop Fragile Earth topic	Academic Year	Sustainability Lead with Curriculum Leads	Research and build into lesson plans
Pupil Engagement	Eco-council and student-led projects – see Section on Energy & Carbon Continue with litter picking and awareness strategy	Academic Year	Sustainability Lead	School has litter pickers and can use Energy Sparks for all resources and monitoring

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, the Sustainability Lead at Portway Junior School will:

- Review the plan annually (**December 2026**) with School Business Manager.
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement - using all resources and data on Energy Sparks.
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through informal discussions and Eco-Council input.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

Future Achievements Log

This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will be completed by the Sustainability Lead in order to capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress. Examples of future achievements may include achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag status, installing solar panels, or launching a school-wide composting program.

Date	Achievement	Impact	Next Steps

Support and Resources

In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust who offer funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Trust wide meetings can be held with other Sustainability Leads in order to share ideas/best practices along with networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences to provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

Conclusion

By taking a proactive approach to climate action, Portway Junior School is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow. This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion.

Portway Junior School is committed to being a beacon of sustainability in the Odyssey Collaborative Trust in Derby. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our pupils, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

- DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-changestrategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-andchildrens-services-systems>
- DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainabilityleadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>
- Let's Go Zero Campaign: <https://www.letsgozero.org/>
- National Education Nature Park: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>
- Energy Sparks: [Energy Sparks](#)

Tools and Networks:

Climate Ambassador Programme

Volunteer experts help schools develop and implement Climate Action Plans for free. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and led by the University of Reading and EAUC.

[Visit the Climate Ambassadors Programme](#)

2. Sustainability Support for Education

The Department for Education provides curated resources, training, and guidance to help schools integrate sustainability into teaching and operations. This includes support from COP26 initiatives, water resilience strategies, and climate literacy campaigns.

[Explore DfE Sustainability Resources](#)

3. Eco-Schools Programme

An international award scheme that empowers pupils to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework. Schools can earn the prestigious Green Flag accreditation.

[Learn More About Eco-Schools](#)