



St Thomas CE Primary School - Climate Action Plan

1. Staff Expertise

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Enhance staff knowledge on climate adaptation and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training on forest school/nature area setup and maintenance - Organise CPD on pollinator-friendly planting and biodiversity enhancement - Deliver workshops on managing heat in school buildings 	Headteacher / Environmental Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding for external trainers - Access to online CPD modules - Time allocated for training sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 80% of teaching staff trained in nature area management - Staff confident in biodiversity initiatives - Staff able to implement heat mitigation strategies 	Adaptation and resilience, Biodiversity
Build expertise in sustainable waste management and composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train relevant staff in composting techniques - Develop procedures for waste segregation and compost use in gardening 	Site Manager / Environmental Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compost bins - Training materials - Time for staff training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Composting system operational - Staff able to manage waste segregation effectively 	Decarbonisation

2. Staff/Pupils



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Increase pupil and staff engagement in sustainability practises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch gardening club focused on pollinator-friendly plants and composting - Involve pupils in wildlife surveys and data collection - Encourage staff to model sustainable behaviours 	Environmental Lead / Class Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardening tools and seeds - Wildlife survey kits - Time allocation for club and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardening club established with regular attendance - Wildlife surveys completed annually - Increased sustainable behaviours observed among staff and pupils 	Biodiversity, Climate education and green careers
Promote awareness of heat management among pupils and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run workshops on staying cool and energy saving in summer - Develop pupil-led campaigns for heat awareness 	Class Teachers / Environmental Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop materials - Campaign resources (posters, assemblies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils demonstrate understanding of heat issues - Behavioural changes to reduce overheating 	Adaptation and resilience

3. Buildings/Grounds

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Improve thermal comfort and reduce overheating in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install shading devices (e.g. external blinds) - Increase ventilation via 	Site Manager / Headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget for shading and ventilation improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in indoor summer temperatures 	Adaptation and resilience



	windows and mechanical systems - Explore use of reflective paint		- Professional advice on building modifications	- Positive feedback from staff and pupils on comfort	
Expand biodiversity through new nature areas	- Develop a forest school/nature area on limited green space - Plant pollinator-friendly plants identified via wildlife survey - Use compost from school waste in planting areas	Environmental Lead / Gardening Club Lead	- Native plants and seeds - Compost from school - Tools and materials for forest school area	- Forest school area established and used regularly - Increase in pollinator activity recorded - Positive pupil engagement with outdoor learning	Biodiversity

4. School Lunches

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Enhance sustainability of school food	- Use produce grown in school gardens in cookery and DT lessons - Promote plant-based meal options - Reduce food waste through portion control and composting	Catering Manager / Health for Life Coordinator	- Coordination with kitchen staff - Educational materials on sustainable eating - Compost bins for food waste	- Increased use of school-grown food in meals - Reduced food waste - Higher uptake of plant-based options	Decarbonisation, Climate education and green careers



5. Curriculum

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Integrate climate education across subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed biodiversity, sustainability and climate change topics in science, geography and DT - Use school's nature garden and forest school as outdoor classrooms - Include practical activities like wildlife surveys and composting 	Curriculum Lead / Class Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum planning time - Access to outdoor learning spaces - Teaching resources on climate topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum documents reflect climate education - Pupils demonstrate knowledge and skills related to sustainability - Increased outdoor learning sessions 	Climate education and green careers, Biodiversity
Develop pupil understanding of climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach about local air quality issues and heat adaptation - Link lessons to local context and pupil experience 	Class Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesson plans and resources - Guest speakers or local expert visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils aware of local environmental challenges - Pupils able to suggest adaptation strategies 	Adaptation and resilience

6. Wellbeing



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Support pupil wellbeing through connection with nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use forest school and nature garden for wellbeing activities - Promote outdoor play and mindfulness in green spaces 	SENCO / Wellbeing Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained staff - Outdoor equipment and seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased pupil participation in outdoor wellbeing activities - Positive impact on pupil mental health reported 	Biodiversity, Adaptation and resilience
Address heat-related wellbeing challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide hydration stations - Adjust school day/timetables during heatwaves 	Headteacher / Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water dispensers - Heatwave response plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced heat-related discomfort or incidents - Staff and pupils feel supported during hot weather 	Adaptation and resilience

7. Opportunities for Pupil Leadership

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Develop pupil leadership in sustainability initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish Eco-Committee with pupil representatives - Assign roles for waste management, gardening club, wildlife surveys - Support pupils to lead 	Environmental Lead / Headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting space and time - Training materials for pupil leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Eco-Committee meeting regularly - Pupil-led projects implemented - Increased pupil 	Climate education and green careers, Biodiversity



	campaigns on heat awareness and biodiversity			ownership of climate actions	
Empower pupils to influence school policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include pupil representatives in relevant school committees - Facilitate pupil presentations to governors 	Headteacher / Governors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time for meetings - Support for pupil preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil input reflected in school decisions - Enhanced pupil confidence and leadership skills 	Governance and Policy, Climate education and green careers

8. Procurement

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed sustainability criteria in procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritise suppliers with low-carbon, ethical credentials - Source gardening and school supplies sustainably - Use recycled and eco-friendly materials where possible 	Business Manager / Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplier information - Procurement policy templates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement records show preference for sustainable suppliers - Reduction in single-use plastics and waste 	Decarbonisation
Reduce waste through smarter purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Order only necessary quantities - Encourage reuse of 	Business Manager / Class Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory management tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced surplus and waste from supplies - Increased reuse rates 	Decarbonisation



	materials in DT and gardening		- Staff awareness training		
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9. Parents

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Engage parents in school's climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate progress via newsletters and social media - Organise family events focused on sustainability (e.g. compost workshops, nature days) - Encourage sustainable travel and waste reduction at home 	Environmental Lead / PTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication channels - Event materials and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased parental attendance at sustainability events - Positive feedback and support from parents - Uptake of sustainable behaviours at home 	Climate education and green careers, Decarbonisation
Promote awareness of local air quality and transport options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share information on air quality and benefits of walking/public transport - Support "walk to school" initiatives 	Environmental Lead / Headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational materials - Collaboration with local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued high rates of walking to school - Reduced car drop-offs 	Adaptation and resilience, Decarbonisation



			transport providers		
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10. Transportation and Travel

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Maintain and increase sustainable travel options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote walking and cycling through campaigns and infrastructure improvements - Encourage use of public transport for staff and school trips - Monitor travel modes via surveys 	Environmental Lead / Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycle racks - Travel survey tools - Promotional materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stable or increased percentage of pupils walking to school - Increased staff use of public transport - Reduced car journeys 	Decarbonisation
Reduce transport-related emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise “walk to school” weeks - Collaborate with local authorities on safe routes 	Environmental Lead / PTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event support - Liaison with local council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased participation in active travel events - Improved safety for walking routes 	Decarbonisation

11. Digital Sustainability



Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Reduce digital carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote energy-saving settings on devices - Encourage responsible use of digital resources - Review and optimise server and network energy use 	IT Coordinator / Headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IT policy updates - Staff and pupil guidance materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced energy consumption from IT equipment - Increased awareness of digital sustainability 	Decarbonisation
Use digital tools to support climate education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate climate-related digital resources and apps - Use online platforms for pupil-led sustainability projects 	Curriculum Lead / IT Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to educational software - Training for staff and pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased use of digital climate resources - Enhanced pupil engagement through technology 	Climate education and green careers

12. Partnerships and Collaborations

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Build partnerships to enhance climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with local environmental organisations for training and resources - Engage with local authorities on air quality and transport initiatives 	Headteacher / Environmental Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact networks - Time for meetings and joint projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal partnerships established - Joint projects delivered 	Biodiversity, Adaptation and resilience



	- Partner with other schools for shared learning			- Access to external expertise	
Access external funding and support	- Identify and apply for grants related to sustainability - Use partnerships to leverage resources	Business Manager / Headteacher	- Grant databases - Support for application writing	- Successful funding applications - Additional resources secured	Decarbonisation

13. Governance and Policy

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Embed climate action in school governance	- Develop and adopt a formal Climate Action Policy - Regular reporting to governors on progress	Headteacher / Governors	- Policy templates - Time for meetings - Monitoring tools	- Policy approved and published - Climate targets integrated into plans - Regular governor oversight	Governance and Policy
Ensure compliance with relevant environmental regulations	- Monitor energy performance and environmental impact	Site Manager / Headteacher	- Energy audits -	- Compliance with regulations maintained - Energy rating	Decarbonisation



	- Implement improvements as required		Regulatory guidance	maintained or improved	
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14. Resilience and Adaptation

Objective	Actions	Person responsible	Resources needed	Success criteria	DfE Area
Increase school resilience to heat and poor air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop heatwave response plan including hydration and cooling strategies - Improve indoor air quality through ventilation and air purifiers if needed - Monitor local air quality and communicate risks 	Headteacher / Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heatwave plan template - Ventilation equipment - Air quality monitoring tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heatwave plan in place and implemented when needed - Improved indoor air quality - Staff and pupils aware of air quality risks 	Adaptation and resilience
Adapt school grounds to support biodiversity and climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use pollinator-friendly planting to support local ecosystems - Ensure nature garden and forest school areas are resilient to climate impacts - Use compost to improve soil health 	Environmental Lead / Gardening Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Native plants - Compost - Maintenance tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiverse and resilient outdoor spaces - Positive trends in local wildlife presence 	Biodiversity, Adaptation and resilience



This plan reflects St Thomas CE Primary School's urban location, limited green space, existing good practice, and priorities such as composting, heat management, and biodiversity enhancement. It is designed to be achievable within the school's resources while maximising impact across the DfE's key climate areas.