



**BUTTSBURY**  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

AN ACADEMY SCHOOL

# **Sustainability and Climate Change Policy**

**Summer Term 2024**

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### 1. Aims and Values

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the local, national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community in relation to climate change and sustainability.

Our school's values of Pride, Fun, Teamwork and Learning Journey are captured in our Eco-Code which identifies three commitments to improving environmental performance.

#### Together we...

**Recycle** – we recycle to reduce waste going to landfill

**Conserve** – we save energy and water from being wasted

**Learn** – we learn about the impact of climate change and how we can reduce it

We are committed to being an Eco-School and aim to work towards being recognised for this annually, through the Eco-Schools awards system.

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## 2. Roles and responsibilities

A range of stakeholders will take on responsibility for executing the sustainability and climate change policy.

Role	Responsibilities
Headteacher and senior leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure staff CPD plans cover sustainability, e.g. including climate change and sustainability, and providing sustainable usage training for all staff</li> <li>• Review subject policies with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education</li> <li>• Work with premises and school business staff to look at where to invest money to reduce carbon emissions, and improve sustainability and resilience</li> <li>• Develop and deliver our school's school development plan</li> <li>• Communicate the sustainability policy to the school community</li> </ul>
Sustainability lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive carbon literacy training and co-ordinate delivery of this training to all staff (as required)</li> <li>• Promote whole-school participation in environmental awareness</li> <li>• Lead a whole-school sustainability audit to identify current and future opportunities for change</li> </ul>
Subject Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying opportunities to teach about the natural world and sustainable practices</li> <li>• Identify ways to reduce usage and waste when teaching their subjects</li> <li>• Incorporate Forest School and outdoor education into their curriculum area</li> </ul>
Finance Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out sustainable procurement practices by considering usage, waste and supply chains as part of the assessment and validation criteria used when purchasing goods and services</li> <li>• Identify funding opportunities for sustainable development and lead bids for that funding, e.g. smart meters, low-carbon boiler replacement</li> <li>• Communicate waste reduction practices in school to encourage sustainable and cost-effective behaviour, e.g. limiting printing, and turning off lights</li> </ul>
Caretaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the school site clean and safe for effective outdoor learning</li> <li>• Make sure all lights, taps, and unnecessary appliances are switched off at the end of each day</li> <li>• Conduct energy and water usage audits at the end of every term</li> </ul>
Governors/trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve policies that have been reviewed with an eye to sustainability and quality outdoor education</li> <li>• Monitor progress of our school's climate actions</li> <li>• Communicate trust-wide values of environmentalism, sustainability and respect for the natural world</li> </ul>

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### 3. Curriculum and Learning

We aim to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding of biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics throughout our curriculum. Example of this this could include:

- Science – recognising and encouraging of biodiversity
- PSHE - climate change, recycling
- DT – exploring sustainable materials, seasonal products and food air miles
- Geography – responsible use and management of water, deforestation

Children will have opportunities to learn about the natural world, sustainability and climate change beyond the classroom through assemblies, themed events, guest speakers and themed days.

We are members of the Eco Schools programme. The structure of the Eco-Schools process is made up of seven steps and this forms the basis of the programme. The seven steps include: Eco Committee, Environmental Review, Action Plan, Linking to the curriculum, Monitoring and Evaluation, Involving the whole school and the wider community, Eco Code.

Buttsbury Junior School has an established Eco-Committee consisting of pupils and staff who are passionate about improving sustainability and climate change. The committee empowers pupil voice to initiate and sustain change. The school also has a Forest Schools and Gardening club to encourage children to learn about nature outside of the curriculum.

The school aims to work within the local and international community to raise awareness and learn from others. Locally may include working with other schools within the town, charities, businesses or religious groups and internationally could include partnerships that we have with other schools, such as Ciamanda Primary School, Kenya.

### 4. Food and Catering

We aim to make the use of food and catering sustainable at Buttsbury Junior School through:

- Committing to using locally-sourced food in school lunches wherever possible
- Committing to reducing food waste and composting food waste that is generated
- Promoting pupils' understanding of food and where it comes from
- Committing to reducing the amount of single use plastics within the school kitchen
- Committing to reducing energy waste in the cooking process
- Exploring the possibility of participating in '[Meat-free Mondays](#)' or another scheme to reduce high-carbon food in your menus

### 5. Waste and Recycling

We aim to reduce the amount of waste that the school produces through sustainable consumption and adopting the philosophy of 'reduce, reuse and recycle. As well as reducing waste, our approach has the potential to reduce costs.

#### Recycling

- We have clearly labelled bins throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste, and posters on how to use them
- Wherever possible, we will compost food waste from the kitchen and staff room

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- We will teach pupils about the different types of bin they might have in their homes, and encourage them to continue good recycling habits when they're not at school
- We aim to recycle some 'difficult' to dispose of items, such as printer toners

### Reducing Waste

- We will reduce paper waste by printing on both sides of paper wherever possible, having scrap-paper drawers and using emails as much as possible
- Staff will be encouraged to consider what materials can be reused
- We encourage pupils to bring reusable water bottles into school rather than using disposable, single-use plastics
- We are aiming to eliminate the use of single use plastics within school
- Children are encouraged to treat resources and equipment with respect, item will be repaired whenever possible
- Refillable soap dispensers are used in toilets
- We have a fresh fruit and vegetables snack policy for break time which reduces plastic packaging

### Purchasing

- We will consider sustainability as part of the assessment and validation criteria for including suppliers on procurement frameworks, to support the sustainable purchasing of products and services
- We run a second-hand shop for uniforms

## 6. Energy and Water

Energy and water conservation are two essential areas for schools to tackle. Eco-efficiency measures can help schools to reduce their need for energy and water, as well as reducing their environmental impact.

Strategies at Buttsbury Junior School to reduce energy and water consumption include:

- Switching off lights, air conditioning, fans and appliances when they are not in use
- Electronic timers on laptop and iPad chargers to reduce energy consumption
- Switching off devices such as printers, photocopiers, laptop and iPad charging units during holiday periods
- The school has automatic light sensors in many places throughout the school
- Signs are in place to remind people to turn off light switches and taps after use
- Fabric towels are used where possible instead of electronic machines
- We keep outside doors closed in cold weather
- Push water taps are fitted in toilets to ensure taps do not stay on
- Other initiatives of energy and water saving are explored e.g. light instillation or introducing hippo bags into toilet flushing systems

## 7. Transport and Travel

Buttsbury Junior School promotes safe and sustainable transport and travel by:

- We offer bike ability safety lessons for pupils in Year 5 and 6.
- All children in Year 5 engage in road safety workshops



- We participate in National Walk to school week with a themed assembly
- We encourage staff to share lifts to off-site training wherever possible to reduce car use
- We share road safety reminders with parents on a regular basis relating to pick up and drop offs at the start and end of the school day
- We have members of staff to monitor and support road safety for pedestrians at the start and end of the day, including the enforcement of not parking or stopping on the road markings

## 8. Buildings and Grounds

Buttsbury Junior School promotes sustainability and educates on climate change through the use of its building and grounds by:

- Making sure that there are enough rubbish bins
- Organising a litter-picking scheme to keep your school site clean
- Identify and protect existing natural habitats on the school site, and use them as an opportunity to teach pupils about the natural world
- Making and developing new areas of biodiversity on the school site
- Providing opportunities for outside learning opportunities e.g. forest schools

Policy Date: Summer Term 2024

Policy Review: Summer Term 2027

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