



Longsands Community Primary School

Climate Change & Sustainability Plan 2025-2027

Sustainability Lead: C Lang

Our Climate Pledge

At Longsands, our core values are those of care, confidence, respect, responsibility & resilience. Through these values, we educate pupils to be global citizens that care about the environment and the world of today and tomorrow. We recognise the role we play in preparing our pupils for a changing climate while reducing their environmental impact and supporting nature recovery.

This policy outlines our commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action. It aligns with the Department for Education's strategy 'Sustainability and Climate Change: A Strategy for the Education and Children's Services Systems'. We aim to embed sustainability across school life, including the curriculum, site management, operations and engagement with the wider community. This policy sets out our actions and targets under four priority areas identified in national guidance.

1. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Develop pupils' understanding of climate change and sustainability.
- Reduce the environmental impact of school operations.
- Increase biodiversity and access to nature on the school site.
- Prepare the school community for the impacts of climate change.
- Support pupils to develop the skills and knowledge needed for future green careers.

2. Leadership and Governance

The Headteacher and Governing Body hold overall responsibility for ensuring the school works towards environmental sustainability. A designated Sustainability Lead coordinates implementation of the climate action plan and works with staff, pupils and governors to monitor progress. Key responsibilities include:

- Headteacher: Ensuring sustainability is embedded within the School Development Plan.
- Sustainability Lead: Coordinating implementation and monitoring progress.
- Site Manager: Supporting energy efficiency, waste reduction and site improvements.
- Governing Body: Reviewing progress annually and supporting strategic planning.
- Pupils: Contributing through the Eco-Committee and sustainability initiatives.

3. Priority Area 1: Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of extreme weather events including heatwaves, storms and heavy rainfall. The school will take steps to ensure the school site and community are prepared for these changes.

Key targets include:

- Complete a climate risk assessment by Summer 2026 covering flooding, overheating and water use.
- Reduce water consumption by 20% by 2030.
- Ensure all building improvements consider climate resilience.

Actions include improving drainage and shade across the site, installing water-saving devices and rainwater collection, and ensuring emergency planning considers extreme weather events.

4. Priority Area 2: Biodiversity and Nature

The school recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity while providing pupils with regular access to nature.

Our biodiversity objectives are to:

- Increase biodiversity areas across the school site
- Create wildlife habitats including pollinator gardens and wildflower areas.
- Provide regular opportunities for outdoor learning for every class.
- Develop a school garden where pupils grow fruit and vegetables.

These actions will be supported through partnerships with local environmental organisations and by involving pupils in biodiversity monitoring and conservation projects.

5. Priority Area 3: Climate Education and Green Skills

Climate education is embedded across the curriculum to help pupils understand environmental challenges and develop solutions. Teaching supports knowledge development alongside practical sustainability skills.

Key commitments include:

- Embedding sustainability and climate learning across science, geography, design technology, PSHE and Preparation for Adulthood
- Providing outdoor learning opportunities linked to environmental topics including provision of a progressive Forest School curriculum
- Establishing a pupil Eco-Committee to lead sustainability initiatives.
- Working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Pupils will develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration through sustainability projects and environmental learning activities.

6. Priority Area 4: Decarbonisation and Net Zero

The school will work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency across its operations.

Key targets include:

- Establishing a carbon emissions baseline by 2026.
- Reducing energy consumption by
- Investigating opportunities for renewable energy such as solar panels.
- Encouraging sustainable travel to school.

Actions include upgrading lighting to LED systems, improving insulation where possible, monitoring energy use and promoting walking and cycling to school.

7. Pupil and Community Engagement

Pupil voice is central to the school's sustainability work. An Eco-Committee with representatives from across the school will meet regularly to plan and lead environmental projects. Pupils will also contribute through curriculum learning, assemblies and school campaigns.

The school will engage parents and the wider community through newsletters, sustainability events and travel initiatives.

8. Monitoring and Review

Progress towards the targets outlined in the Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually. This review will consider energy consumption, water use, biodiversity improvements and pupil engagement in sustainability learning.

The Sustainability Lead will provide an annual report to the Governing Body outlining progress and identifying priorities for further improvement.

Area of focus	Actions	Lead/ person responsible	Resources/ Cost/ CPD/ Timescale
Adaptation & Resilience	• Conduct a roofing survey where localised ingress occurs to inform future roofing works & reduce risk of flooding • Conduct a flooding survey to area adjacent to nursery building- respond with planned works/ alternative surfacing to eliminate flooding to the area through improved drainage • Assess risks due to global warming through overheating, flooding and water shortages • Plan for future building works to minimise impact of the above including improved ventilation and cooling in identified areas • Establish a procurement plan for associated purchases and building works	• School Business Manager • LCC District Surveyor • Headteacher	Surveys by Spring 2026 Funding action plan and procurement Summer 2026
Biodiversity & Nature	• Increase biodiversity within the school grounds through planting of wildflower area, installation of bird boxes and bird feeders, bug houses and wildlife observation areas • Establish vegetable and fruit patches and plant fruit trees to provide food sources and educate pupils on self-sustainability • Introduce pollinator plants to planting area at front of school • Through Preparation for Adulthood curriculum- seek opportunities for community engagement through local environmental projects	• Forest School Lead • Site Supervisor • PfA Lead • Teachers • Pupils	By Sept 2027 PTFA Fundraising Potential grant funding
Education & Green Skills	• Map out sustainability and climate education through Science, geography, PSHE, DT and Preparation for Adulthood curricula • Further develop weekly Eco-Club to establish pupil Eco-Committee representative from each year group • Empower Eco-Committee to drive sustainability initiatives with classmates through half termly meetings • Use of Smart School Council to gather pupil voice on sustainability and climate change initiatives and challenges	• Sustainability Lead • Subject Leaders • Eco-Club Lead • Teachers • Pupils	Summer 2026
Decarbonisation & Net Zero	• Establish a carbon footprint baseline https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/count-your-carbon/ • Measure current energy use and emissions using energy data from Display Energy Certificate (DEC) • Establish a whole school action plan to reduce carbon emissions including reduction in energy use • Programme replacement of taps in pupil bathrooms to reduce water wastage • Investigate renewable energy sources to improve energy efficiency • Install water harvesting equipment to support growing on • Establish a transport policy for school which identifies ways in which we can reduce the use of vehicles through car sharing and walk/ cycle/ scoot to school initiatives • Engage pupils and families in waste reduction initiatives e.g. reduce/ reuse/ recycle	• School Business Manager • LCC Property Services • LCC District Surveyor • Headteacher • Teachers • Pupils • Parents/ carers	Baseline Summer 2026 Capital funding-programme of improvements