




Temple Sowerby CE Primary School

Climate Change Policy

2025/2026

Approved by	
Name:	Mr K Laithwaite - Headteacher
Signed:	
Date:	16 th January 2025
Review date:	15 th January 2026

Policy Statement and Purpose

Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School recognises the global challenge of climate change and our responsibility as a school community to care for God's creation. We believe that through collective action, education, and faith-led stewardship, we can make a meaningful contribution to a more sustainable world.

This policy sets out how the school will promote environmental sustainability across all areas of school life — teaching, learning, operations, and community engagement — guided by our Christian ethos and values.

School Vision and Christian Ethos

Our vision for the school community is rooted in a deep respect for human, social, and cultural values, expressed through a caring Christian ethos. We aim to promote high academic standards and a positive attitude to learning, providing a wide range of experiences and opportunities. In doing so, we encourage all children to be happy and to flourish by giving them the skills they need to become good citizens and to discover 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We strive to apply our Christian vision and values in all aspects of school life, encouraging children to think about others, to care for their environment, and to act responsibly within the wider world.

Core Christian Values and Their Link to Environmental Stewardship

Our six core Christian values underpin this policy and guide our response to climate change:

- Kindness – showing compassion for all living things and promoting care for God’s creation.
- Responsibility – recognising our duty to reduce waste, save energy, and make sustainable choices.
- Resilience – responding to environmental challenges with perseverance and creativity.
- Hope – believing in our power to make a positive difference for the future of our planet.
- Community – working together with families, local groups, and the church to build a sustainable future.
- Courage – standing up for environmental justice and making bold choices to protect the earth.

Aims of the Policy

- To reduce the environmental impact of the school's activities.
- To educate and inspire pupils to understand the causes and effects of climate change.
- To embed environmental sustainability across the curriculum and daily routines.
- To empower pupils to take action and become responsible global citizens.
- To strengthen community links through shared environmental initiatives.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to Christian stewardship of creation.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils and staff at Temple Sowerby CE Primary School.
- Governors, parents, and visitors to the school.
- External partners and contractors working on site.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body:

- Approve and monitor the implementation of this policy.
- Ensure resources and support are allocated appropriately.

Headteacher:

- Provide leadership and strategic oversight.
- Ensure that sustainability principles are embedded in school operations.

Staff:

- Model sustainable behaviour and integrate climate learning across subjects.
- Encourage children to think critically about environmental issues.

Pupils:

- Participate actively in eco-initiatives and lead by example.
- Suggest ways to improve sustainability within school life.

School Council:

- Monitor environmental impact and progress.

- Lead campaigns, assemblies, and events related to sustainability.

Parents and Community Members:

- Support sustainable practices at home and during school events.
- Collaborate on community environmental projects.

Areas of Action

Curriculum and Learning:

- Embed climate change, sustainability, and environmental care across the curriculum (science, geography, RE, PSHE).
- Use outdoor learning and Forest School sessions to deepen pupils' connection with nature.
- Encourage inquiry, debate, and reflection on local and global environmental issues.

School Operations:

- Reduce energy and water consumption through efficient systems and mindful use.
- Recycle and reuse materials wherever possible.
- Minimise single-use plastics and promote sustainable purchasing.
- Explore renewable energy options where feasible.

Travel and Transport:

- Encourage walking, cycling, and car sharing through initiatives like 'Walk to School Week.'
- Provide safe storage for bicycles and scooters.

School Grounds and Biodiversity:

- Maintain and expand wildlife-friendly areas, such as gardens, hedgerows, and bug hotels.
- Plant trees and native species to enhance biodiversity.
- Use the school grounds as a learning resource for environmental education.

Community and Partnerships:

- Collaborate with local churches, environmental groups, and the parish council.
- Participate in national and diocesan eco initiatives (e.g. Eco-Schools, Let's Go Zero).
- Support charitable projects that promote environmental sustainability and climate justice.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Eco Committee will conduct annual audits on waste, energy use, and recycling.
- Progress will be reported to the Governing Body each term.
- Pupil feedback and class projects will help evaluate awareness and engagement.
- The policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if national guidance changes.

Links to Other Policies

- Curriculum Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Behaviour and Ethos Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- The UK Government's 'Education for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.'
- The Church of England's Environment Programme and Net Zero by 2030 commitment.
- Local authority guidance on sustainability and climate resilience.

Communication

- The policy will be shared with staff, governors, and parents, and published on the school website.
- Updates will be shared in newsletters, assemblies, and the school's Eco display board.
- Pupils will help promote sustainable behaviours through projects and collective worship themes.