Climate and Sustainability Policy

MUNDY C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Last Reviewed	**October 2026**
Checked by	**DA**
Next Review Date	**October 2028**

Mundy C of E VC Junior School

Climate and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

At **Mundy C of E VC Junior School**, we recognise our responsibility to care for God's creation and to prepare our children to become responsible global citizens. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, embedding sustainable practices into everyday school life, and educating our pupils about climate change, environmental stewardship and sustainable living.

As part of our commitment to caring for God's creation and educating future generations, we recognise the importance of understanding how our actions affect local, national and global environments. We encourage all members of our school community to take responsibility for their environmental impact and to contribute positively towards a sustainable future.

Our approach is guided by our Eco-Code:

- **Together We Recycle** - reducing waste sent to landfill.
- **Together We Conserve** - saving energy and water.
- **Together We Learn** - understanding climate change and taking action to reduce its effects.

The school is committed to maintaining Eco-Schools accreditation and embedding environmental responsibility across all aspects of school life.

Through this policy, we aim to create a healthier, safer, more inclusive and environmentally responsible school community while empowering pupils to become ambassadors for sustainability locally and globally.

‘Let love & kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.’ Corinthians 16:14

Aims

We aim to:

1. Build awareness of climate change and sustainability.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles within school and the wider community.
3. Empower pupils to lead environmental action.
4. Reduce the school's environmental impact and carbon footprint.

5. Embed sustainability throughout the curriculum.
6. Develop sustainable procurement and resource management practices.
7. Enhance biodiversity and outdoor learning opportunities.
8. Strengthen community partnerships.
9. Monitor, evaluate and continually improve our environmental performance.

Core Values

Our Climate and Sustainability Policy is underpinned by the following values:

Sustainability Value	Linked Be Statements	Explanation
Stewardship	**Responsible, Caring, Proud**	We take care of our school, community, and environment, showing responsibility for the world around us.
Respect for Nature	**Respectful, Caring, Safe**	We value and protect nature, understanding that a healthy environment benefits everyone.
Responsibility	**Responsible, Trustworthy, Prepared**	We make thoughtful choices and are accountable for our actions and their impact on others and the environment.
Inclusivity	**Respectful, Caring, Happy, Polite**	We welcome and value everyone, ensuring all voices are heard and respected.
Collaboration	**Respectful, Caring, Trustworthy**	We work together to achieve shared goals and support one another in making positive change.
Resilience	**Determined, Proud, Responsible**	We persevere through challenges and learn from setbacks to create a sustainable future.
Innovation	**Determined, Prepared, Proud**	We think creatively and seek new solutions to environmental and social challenges.
Social Justice	**Caring, Respectful, Trustworthy**	We stand up for fairness, equality, and opportunities for all people.
Long-Term Thinking	**Responsible, Prepared, Determined**	We consider the future impact of our decisions and plan ahead for lasting positive outcomes.

These values support our Christian ethos and guide decision-making throughout the school.

Curriculum and Learning

Sustainability and climate education are integrated throughout the curriculum and wider school life.

Children will have opportunities to:

- Learn about climate change, biodiversity, conservation and renewable energy.
- Understand the causes and impacts of environmental change.
- Explore sustainable living and responsible consumption.
- Participate in practical environmental projects.
- Develop leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills.
- Engage in community sustainability initiatives.
- Take part in outdoor learning and environmental fieldwork.

Climate Education and Outdoor Learning

Climate and sustainability themes are delivered through:

- Science, including biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems.
- Geography, including climate change and resource management.
- Design Technology, including sustainable materials and food production.
- PSHE, including environmental responsibility and citizenship.
- Religious Education, exploring stewardship and care for creation.
- Forest School activities and outdoor learning.
- Collective Worships, themed events and environmental awareness campaigns.

Pupils are encouraged to become active participants in creating solutions to environmental challenges and are given opportunities to influence school sustainability priorities.

Pupil Participation

We believe children are powerful agents of change and courageous leaders.

Pupil leadership opportunities include:

- Eco C.A.T.s (Children Action Team)
- School Parliament

- Buddy Systems (our Busy Bees)
- Gardening and growing projects
- Environmental campaigns
- Community sustainability initiatives

Pupils help identify priorities, lead projects, monitor progress and encourage sustainable behaviours throughout the school community.

Energy and Water

The school is committed to reducing energy and water consumption.

Energy

We will:

- Promote a "Switch Off and Save" culture.
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Monitor energy consumption.
- Conduct regular energy audits.
- Use low-energy lighting where possible.
- Install automatic lighting controls where practical.
- Use electronic timers for charging systems and equipment.
- Explore opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through future improvements.

Water

We will:

- Promote responsible water use.
- Monitor water consumption.
- Identify and repair leaks promptly.
- Install water-saving devices where appropriate.
- Use push-tap systems where practical.
- Utilise rainwater collection systems and water butts where possible.
- Promote reusable water bottles and reduce single-use plastics.

Staff and pupils will work together to identify opportunities for further reductions in energy and water use.

Waste and Recycling

The school promotes the principles of:

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

We will:

- Provide recycling facilities throughout the school.
- Reduce unnecessary printing.
- Encourage double-sided copying.
- Reuse resources wherever possible.
- Compost food and garden waste.
- Encourage waste-free lunches.
- Promote reusable containers and bottles.
- Educate pupils about responsible resource use.

Current Recycling Initiatives

The school currently supports recycling of:

- Batteries
- Ink cartridges
- Pens and stationery
- Clothing
- Mobile phones
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Plastics
- IT equipment

The school also:

- Operates composting systems.

- Maintains scrap paper reuse systems.
- Supports second-hand uniform initiatives.
- Uses refillable products where possible.
- Works towards reducing single-use plastics across the school.

Sustainable Procurement

The school recognises that purchasing decisions have environmental, social and economic impacts. Sustainability considerations will therefore form part of procurement decisions wherever practical and financially viable.

The school will:

- Consider environmental and ethical impacts when purchasing goods and services.
- Purchase recycled, recyclable or refurbished products where appropriate.
- Reduce unnecessary purchasing through effective resource management.
- Source local products where possible.
- Consider supplier environmental credentials.
- Support Fairtrade and ethically sourced products where practical.
- Purchase environmentally friendly cleaning products whenever suitable.
- Consider sustainability when arranging contracts, services and educational visits.
- Promote responsible disposal, reuse and recycling of equipment and resources.

To support implementation, the school will:

- Allocate resources to support sustainable procurement where possible.
- Monitor purchasing practices.
- Share good practice.
- Review procurement procedures regularly.

Food and Catering

The school promotes healthy, sustainable food choices.

We will:

- Promote healthy eating.
- Source local produce where possible.
- Reduce food waste.
- Compost food scraps where appropriate.
- Reduce single-use plastics associated with catering.
- Encourage understanding of food production and food miles.
- Support school gardening and growing initiatives.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to participate in food-growing projects.
- Linked to School Food Waste Policy

These activities help children understand the relationship between food, health and sustainability.

Biodiversity, Buildings and Grounds

The school grounds provide valuable opportunities for environmental education and biodiversity enhancement.

We will:

- Protect and enhance wildlife habitats.
- Plant trees and native species where possible.
- Develop vegetable plots and growing areas.
- Promote outdoor learning opportunities.
- Support pollinator-friendly planting.
- Manage outdoor spaces sustainably.
- Consider sustainability in future site developments.

The school currently benefits from extensive tree coverage, including more than 600 planted trees, and has contributed to wider National Forest planting initiatives. Native species are prioritised wherever possible to support local biodiversity.

Outdoor learning spaces are maintained to encourage hands-on environmental learning and foster respect for the natural environment.

Travel and Transport

We encourage sustainable travel wherever possible.

The school promotes:

- Walking to school.
- Scooter to school and training for year 3 and 4
- Cycle training. Bikeability year 4 to year 6
- Use of public transport where appropriate.
- Active travel initiatives.
- Safe routes to school.
- Park 'n' Stride

These measures support healthier lifestyles and help reduce emissions associated with journeys to and from school.

Community and Partnerships

We recognise that successful climate action requires collaboration.

The school will work with:

- Parents and carers
- Local businesses
- Community groups
- Environmental organisations
- Charitable partners
- Local authorities
- National sustainability programmes

We will continue to strengthen partnerships that support environmental education, sustainability projects and biodiversity enhancement.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Mundy C of E VC Junior School is committed to ensuring all children can participate fully in climate and sustainability activities.

We will:

- Provide inclusive learning opportunities.
- Adapt activities where necessary.
- Ensure outdoor learning experiences are accessible.
- Support pupils with SEND.
- Promote equality and respect through sustainability education.

Every child should have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to contribute to a sustainable future.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

The school is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through:

- Energy conservation.
- Sustainable procurement.
- Responsible travel.
- Waste reduction.
- Biodiversity enhancement.
- Environmental education.

Progress will be monitored through audits, Climate Action Planning and Eco-Schools reviews. Tree planting and habitat creation projects will continue to support our wider carbon reduction efforts.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Monitor implementation of the policy.
- Review sustainability objectives and progress.

- Support strategic climate action planning.

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Senior Leaders will:

- Lead implementation of the policy.
- Embed sustainability within school improvement planning.
- Promote professional development.
- Communicate progress to stakeholders.

Sustainability Lead / Eco Lead

The Sustainability Lead will:

- Coordinate the Climate Action Plan.
- Lead environmental audits and reviews.
- Coordinate Eco-Schools activities.
- Promote whole-school sustainability initiatives.
- Support staff training and awareness.
- Monitor progress against targets.
- Report regularly to governors and stakeholders.

School Business Manager / Finance Officer

The School Business Manager will:

- Support sustainable procurement.
- Monitor resource consumption.
- Identify funding opportunities.
- Ensure value for money in sustainability initiatives.
- Support monitoring and reporting processes.

Staff

Staff will:

- Model sustainable behaviours.
- Integrate sustainability into teaching and learning.
- Support environmental initiatives and projects.

- Encourage pupil participation.

Caretaking Staff

Caretaking staff will:

- Participate in environmental initiatives
- Contribute ideas
- Encouraging pupil participation.
- Order sustainable products where possible

Pupils

Pupils will:

- Actively participate in environmental initiatives.
- Promote sustainable behaviours.
- Contribute ideas through leadership groups.
- Help monitor sustainability projects.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support sustainability initiatives.
- Reinforce environmental responsibility at home.
- Participate in school and community projects.

Monitoring and Review

This policy forms part of the school's wider improvement and strategic planning process.

Progress will be monitored through:

- Eco-Schools action plans
- Environmental audits
- Energy and water monitoring
- Pupil voice activities
- Governor monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team, Sustainability Lead and Governing Body to ensure it remains effective, relevant and aligned with the school's vision for environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

Review Cycle: Annual
Policy Lead: Sustainability Lead / Eco Lead
Approved By: Governing Body
Next Review Date: _____