

**Our Lady of the Rosary  
Climate Action Plan**

**O**ur Journey

**L**ove God

**O**thers First

**R**espect All

*Persevere to Succeed*

September 2025

## **Climate Action Plan**

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote his letter 'Laudato Si', in which he called upon all mankind to be 'Stewards of the Earth', looking our planet and respecting nature. Here at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, we recognise the responsibility we have to care for God's creation and we believe that small actions lead to meaningful change. We want to follow Pope Francis' example and try to make our school as sustainable as we possibly can. This plan reflects our Catholic ethos, Mission Statement and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. By caring for God's creation, promoting justice and solidarity with those affected by climate change, and fostering a culture of responsibility, we teach children to live their faith through action.

OLOR has already been very active in responding to 'Laudato Si'. Previously we have

- Installed solar panels on the hall roof to produce carbon free energy.
- Created a Forest area.
- All printing is completed on recycled paper.
- Worked with Bob Turner and CAFOD.
- Built an eco classroom and planters using waste plastics.
- Planted trees, working alongside the charity City of Trees.
- Installed bug hotels around school.
- Chosen sustainable uniform made from recycled materials, as well as promoting the use of second-hand uniform.

Our Climate Action Plan reflects our mission to inspire children, staff and the wider community to take action towards a more sustainable future. It sets out our commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future—both for our school and for the wider community. We are committed to creating a greener, more sustainable future—both for our school and for the wider community.

OLOR's Climate Action Plan aims to:

- build the confidence of staff and children in understanding climate change and how positive changes can be achieved, creating a culture that prioritises sustainability.
- use data to identify and prioritise action.
- improve energy and water efficiency.
- calculate our carbon emissions and identify ways to reduce them.
- reduce operating costs.
- adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- enhance biodiversity.
- help learners develop skills and knowledge which help them to contribute to sustainability and climate change in their lives and future jobs.

## **Climate team**

Eco lead – Mrs Timms (Geography lead), alongside Mrs Grayson (Kitchen)

Headteacher – Mrs Groves

Y6 Eco prefects

**Other staff:**

Mrs Lucas – School Business Manager

Mrs Carney – School Site Manager

**Baseline assessment: OLOR's current position:**

- **Energy:** School has solar panels currently with moderate consumption is any gas and electricity used?
- **Waste:** Regular recycling of delivery materials, but limited recycling of waste paper from classrooms. No composting.
- **Travel:** Predominantly car-based school run with limited active travel.
- **Biodiversity:** Existing green spaces, but only a little wildlife support.
- **Curriculum:** Some environmental topics, but not fully embedded across all key stages.

**1 Sustainability in School Life**

**Objectives:**

- Reduce the school's carbon footprint.
- Teach children about sustainable living and embed eco-awareness into the curriculum.
- Recycle more in school.

**Actions:**

- **Eco Team:** New Y6 Eco prefect are briefed and attend meetings with the teacher lead. Eco Prefects champion sustainability projects.
- **Energy monitoring:** Eco prefects are energy monitors for each class to ensure lights, screens and projectors are turned off when not in use.
- **Recycling stations:** Set up colour-coded bins for paper and food waste. All suitable paper is to be used as scrap paper prior to being recycled.
- **Sustainability mentioned in weekly assemblies** – Reflecting the importance of sustainability and delivered by Headteacher and Eco Team.
- **Uniform swap days:** Organise second-hand uniform swap events (Organised by PTA)
- **Walk to school week:** Promote active travel for environmental and health benefits. Promote walk-to-school and cycle-to-school weeks. Encourage car sharing and public transport.
- **Energy and waste audit:** Eco prefects identify areas for improvement through hands-on learning.
- **Plant and tree planting:** Create shaded outdoor areas, improve air quality and reduce carbon. are leaving an area of our school grounds and planting wild flower seed to be a wild area to encourage local bio-diversity.

- **Eco and climate education:** Integrate sustainability across the curriculum in all year groups in Science, Geography, PSHE and RE lessons. Offer training for staff in climate education. Involve children in local environmental projects and trips. Increase children's understanding of our carbon footprints.

## Allotment Project

### Objectives:

- Grow fresh food sustainably.
- Teach children about healthy eating, food cycles and responsibility.
- Sell produce to community and gift produce to neighbours.
- Support the food bank, other charities and the Harvest Festival.

### Actions:

- **Create allotment zones:** Divide into raised beds into themes (fruit trees, root vegetables, herb corner and Remembrance / Sensory Garden).
- **Composting:** Start composting fruit/veg scraps to fertilise garden beds, creating nutrient-rich soil from garden waste.
- **Garden jobs rota:** Eco team to water, weed and harvest.
- **Harvest days:** Involve children in picking produce and using it in school lunches, selling it or donating to charity.
- **Hands-on learning:** Integrate Science lessons on plant growth and ecosystems. Children can measure growth, observe pollinators and understand how different plants contribute to the environment. Complete the RSPB Birdwatch, contributing to citizen science by monitoring local bird species.
- **Pollinator garden:** Plant wildflowers and nectar-rich plants to encourage bees and butterflies.
- **Community involvement:** Invite families to volunteer.

## Remembrance and Sensory Garden

### Objectives:

- Support mental well-being through nature.
- Create a calm space for sensory exploration and mindfulness.

### Actions:

- **Select a designated area:** Designate a quiet area of the school grounds for a sensory garden, which incorporates plants that children can touch, smell and taste (e.g., mint, lavender, and strawberries).
- **Planting scheme:** Use plants with different textures, colours, scents and sounds (e.g. lavender, lamb's ear, bamboo, wind chimes). Promote use of taking cuttings, rather than going to a garden centre (therefore reducing carbon emissions and plastic use.)
- **Wildlife-friendly garden:** Include plants that attract pollinators (bees and butterflies) and other wildlife and encourage children to observe these creatures in their natural habitat. Install bird boxes and insect hotels.

- **Inclusive access:** Ensure paths and features are accessible for all children, including those with SEND. Create sensory pathways with textured materials, wind chimes and visually stimulating plants.
- **Therapeutic benefits:** Encourage teachers to use the sensory garden as a calming space for children to unwind and engage with nature. Use the space for sensory walks, quiet reading or wellbeing sessions. Integrate the sensory garden into mindfulness practices and art projects (e.g., sketching plants, writing poems inspired by nature).

## Reducing Food Waste

### Objectives:

- Raise awareness of food waste and improve school habits.
- Start composting.
- Divert waste from landfill.

### Actions:

- **Food waste audit:** Measure food waste. Use findings to highlight areas where food waste can be minimised (e.g., portion control, parents providing no waste packed lunches etc) and select a target to reduce and track over the year.
- **Waste-free Wednesdays:** Encourage packed lunches with minimal waste. Launch a campaign for children to bring waste-free lunches one day a week, encouraging reusable containers and avoiding single-use plastics.
- **Kitchen collaboration:** Work with the school kitchen to reduce overproduction and offer choice portions. Maybe offer leftover food to staff or families where possible.
- **Composting caddies / bins:** Introduce food waste bins in dining areas and staff room and also caddies on the playground to compost fruit and veg scraps. Eco team to get involved in the composting process.
- **Educational displays:** Share facts and tips around school to encourage waste reduction.

## Reduce OLOR's carbon footprint

### Objectives:

- Reduce the Carbon footprint created by school.

### Actions:

- **Energy efficiency:** Conduct an audit of the school's energy usage (Count Your Carbon) and identify areas for improvement (e.g., encourage children to turn off lights and computers when not in use). Turn the school's heating down by 1 degree. Investigate the Switch-Off Campaign.
- **Transport initiatives:** Encourage walking or cycling to school to reduce the carbon footprint from car use. School to look into creating a walking bus **or** bike-to-school days. Where possible, staff travel together to reduce the number of cars driving to school.
- **Water conservation:** Promote water-saving practices such as low-flow taps and water butts in the sensory and allotment gardens. Educate children about the importance of water conservation and ways to reduce water usage at school and home.

- **Separating food and paper waste:** Keep food and paper waste out of the general waste, reducing methane emissions from landfill and lowering our carbon footprint.
- **Sustainability mentioned in weekly assemblies** – Reflecting the importance of sustainability and delivered by Headteacher and Eco Team.

## Education & Engagement

### Objectives:

- Raise awareness and empower children as climate champions
- Involve the wider school community

### Actions:

- **Eco team:** Alongside the Year 6 Eco Prefects, form a sustainability committee to drive initiatives such as waste reduction and energy-saving practices. Empower children to propose eco-friendly ideas and initiatives that can be implemented at school.
- **Sustainability mentioned in weekly assemblies:** Reflecting the importance of sustainability and delivered by Headteacher and Eco Team.
- **Lessons about climate change and sustainability:** Integrate lessons on environmental issues, sustainability and the impact of human activities on the planet.
- **Wear it green day or Sustainability week:** Children wear green to support our mission to be environmentally friendly and choosing a target they will complete or organise a week focused on sustainability activities such as recycling competitions, eco-friendly art projects and workshops from environmental organisations.
- **Partnerships:** Connect with local environmental groups for shared initiatives. Engage local businesses and organisations in supporting sustainability projects, such as donating seeds, tools or expert knowledge for the allotment and garden.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Publish annual Climate Action progress reports on the school website. Monitor key metrics (eg: energy, waste, travel data) and display them for children. Eco team to present updates in assemblies.

By combining education, hands-on experience, and practical actions, this Climate Action Plan can help embed sustainability deeply into the fabric of the school, while offering children a direct connection to nature and an understanding of their role in protecting the planet.

Created by:

Liz Timms (Eco Lead)

Hannah Groves (Headteacher)

Our Eco Team:

Harry Halsall

Harry Allsey

Imogen Kemp

Francesca Mather

Jessica Olive

Sam Berry