

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

Our Journey
Love God
Others First
Respect All

Persevere to Succeed

September 2026-2027

Introduction

As a Catholic school, our Climate Action Plan is rooted in our Catholic mission and vision and reflects our responsibility to care for God's creation and for our common home. Inspired by the example of St Francis of Assisi, whose life demonstrated a profound respect for creation, we seek to develop a school community where care for the environment is an integral part of our faith, our curriculum and our daily actions.

This plan supports the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly our responsibility to care for creation, promote the common good and recognise the dignity and interconnectedness of all people and the natural world. It reflects the message of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to hear both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and to respond with hope, compassion and practical action.

Our approach to climate action contributes to the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) framework by demonstrating how our Catholic mission is lived out through the life of the school. Care for creation provides meaningful opportunities for religious education, spiritual development, pupil formation and active participation, enabling children to understand that faith calls us not only to learn about God's creation but also to care for it.

We aim to develop pupils as confident, responsible and compassionate stewards of creation, giving them the knowledge, skills and opportunities to make a positive difference. Through pupil leadership, collective worship, curriculum learning, prayer and practical environmental projects, children will be encouraged to reflect on their responsibilities towards others, our local community and future generations.

The Season of Creation provides an important opportunity each year for our school community to celebrate God's gift of creation, reflect on our responsibilities and take meaningful action. The example of St Francis encourages us to approach this work with joy, gratitude, simplicity and hope.

Our Climate Action Plan therefore forms part of the wider life and mission of our school. It seeks to bring together faith, education and action, ensuring that our commitment to caring for our common home is visible in our policies, curriculum, environment, relationships and everyday choices. Through working together, we hope to create a school community where every person understands that they have a part to play in protecting God's creation and promoting the flourishing of all.

OLOR has already been very active in responding to 'Laudato Si'. In 2025-26, along with our Year 6 Eco Prefects, we

- Created a remembrance / sensory garden, with allotment area.
- Worked with Willowgoat crafts, to install a willow tunnel and fencing, which also included workshops for classes.
- Worked with Manchester City Football Club to plant a legacy flower bed for all supporters and staff to enjoy.
- Installed paper recycling bins all around school.

- Were invited to the Greater Manchester Green Summit at the Coop Arena and met the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, now the Prime minister.
- Were successful in applying for an eco grant of £2,000.
- Planted 60 trees donated by Woodland Trust.
- Avoided food waste by selling apples and making apple crumbles; funds were donated to MacMillan Cancer Support.
- Worked alongside Bob Turner from CAFOD on environmental issues.

Previously we have also:

- Installed solar panels on the hall roof to produce carbon free energy.
- Created a Forest area.
- Ensured all printing is completed on recycled paper.
- Worked with Bob Turner and CAFOD.
- Built an eco classroom and planters using waste plastics.
- Worked alongside the charity, City of Trees, to plant hedgerows.
- 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.

Aims

Our Climate Action Plan aims to:

- Care for God's creation and our common home, inspired by St Francis of Assisi and Laudato Si'.
- Reduce our environmental impact through sustainable choices, reducing waste and conserving resources.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and create spaces where nature can flourish.
- Empower our pupils as stewards and leaders, developing their knowledge, skills and confidence to take action.
- Live out our Catholic mission by promoting stewardship, compassion, justice, service and the common good.

How our Climate Action Plan supports our Catholic mission.

Our Climate Action Plan demonstrates how our Catholic mission is translated into meaningful action. Inspired by St Francis of Assisi and the teachings of *Laudato Si'*, pupils are encouraged to recognise creation as a gift from God and to understand their responsibility as stewards of our common home.

Through Religion lessons, prayer and liturgy, pupil leadership, curriculum learning, community engagement and practical environmental projects, our children are given opportunities to put their faith into action. They develop knowledge, confidence and practical skills while learning about responsibility, justice, compassion, service and the common good.

The plan therefore supports the development of the whole child and demonstrates that care for creation is not an additional initiative but an important part of the lived Catholic mission of our school.

Climate team

Sustainability and Eco lead – Mrs Timms (Geography subject coordinator), alongside Mrs Grayson (Kitchen)

Headteacher – Mrs Groves

Y6 Eco prefects

Other staff:

Mrs Lucas – School Business Manager

Mrs Carney – School Site Manager

Our focus for 2026-27

1. Energy and carbon reduction

- New Year 6 Eco prefects can start an energy-monitoring team.
- Encourage lights and screens to be switched off when rooms are empty.
- Use natural light where possible.
- Monitor heating and make sure doors and windows are used appropriately.
- Hold an annual Energy Saving Week.

2. Waste and consumption

- Continue to use recycling stations and ensure they are emptied regularly.
- Each class has a 'reuse station' for paper, craft materials and other resources.
- Encourage children to use both sides of paper.
- Work alongside the kitchen to reduce food waste through portion awareness and food-waste monitoring.
- Compost suitable food and garden waste.
- Have a uniform swap/shop to encourage reuse.

3. Biodiversity and outdoor spaces

- Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.
- Continue to develop the remembrance / sensory garden.
- Add bird boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog-friendly areas.
- Continue to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs.
- Plant willow for living structures and natural play.
- Leave some areas of grass longer to support wildlife.
- Record and monitor the wildlife found in the school grounds.

4. Sustainable travel

- Encourage walking, cycling and scooting to school (where safe).
- Run a Walk to School Week.
- Introduce a sustainable-travel survey.

5. Water

- Check for dripping taps and leaks.
- Encourage children not to leave taps running.
- Investigate water-saving devices.
- Collect rainwater for gardening.
- Teach pupils about the importance of clean, safe water around the world.

6. Food and healthy living

- Continue to reduce food waste.
- Continue to compost suitable fruit and vegetable waste.
- Encourage healthy, sustainable packed lunches.

7. Pupil leadership

- Ensure the new Year 6 Eco Prefects continue the successful work of the previous years.
- Identify any waste /eco problems around school and suggest or research solutions.
- Keep SLT and Governors up to date of eco work.
- Lead assemblies.
- Teach younger pupils about sustainability.
- Celebrate environmental successes.

8. Catholic faith and stewardship

- Celebrate the Season of Creation and explore the life and example of St Francis of Assisi.
- Continue to use '*Laudato Si*' as a stimulus for reflection and action.
- Continue to develop our outdoor prayer/reflection areas (remembrance/sensory garden, prayer garden, Stations of the cross garden etc).
- Explore the Catholic Social Teaching principle of care for our common home.
- Link environmental action to the common good, justice, compassion and service.
- Encourage pupils to reflect on how caring for creation means caring for people too.

9. Curriculum

- Develop links to subjects throughout the whole school, such as:

Subject	Possible environmental learning
RE	Creation, stewardship, St Francis, <i>Laudato Si</i>
Science	Habitats, plants, animals, materials, climate
Geography	Climate, sustainability, resources, human impact
English	Persuasive writing, environmental poetry, speeches
Maths	Analyse energy/waste/recycling data
Art	Natural materials and environmental artwork
DT	Sustainable design and recycled materials
Computing	Digital campaigns and presentations
PE	Outdoor activities and connection with nature
PSHE	Responsibility, community and wellbeing

Conclusion:

Our Climate Action Plan demonstrates our commitment to living out our Catholic mission through practical care for God's creation and our common home. Inspired by **St Francis of Assisi**, *Laudato Si'* and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we recognise that caring for creation is an essential part of developing the whole child and preparing our pupils to become responsible and compassionate citizens.

Through the actions within this plan, we aim to ensure that environmental stewardship is embedded within the everyday life of our school. Our work will provide opportunities for pupils to learn, reflect, lead and take meaningful action, developing their understanding that small changes can contribute to positive and lasting environmental change.

The plan supports the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) expectations by demonstrating how our Catholic mission is lived through Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education, prayer and liturgy, pupil participation and leadership, formation, stewardship and service to the wider community. Our environmental work provides tangible opportunities for pupils to put their faith into action through care, responsibility, generosity and service.

Projects such as our Forest of Creation, living willow dome, hedgerow planting and reduction of food waste will provide visible evidence of our commitment to caring for creation. They will also create opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively, develop practical skills, improve biodiversity and contribute positively to our school and wider community.

We recognise that climate action is an ongoing journey. We will regularly monitor, evaluate and review our progress, celebrating achievements while identifying further opportunities for improvement. Pupil voice will remain central to this process, ensuring that our young people have an active role in shaping the future of our school.

Ultimately, our ambition is to create a school community where care for creation is not simply an environmental responsibility but an expression of our faith. By nurturing today's young stewards, we hope to inspire a lasting commitment to protecting our common home, caring for others and working together for the flourishing of all.

Created by:

Liz Timms (Eco Lead)

Our Eco Team