



# Environmental / Climate Policy

St Benet's Catholic Primary  
School, Ouston

2025-2026



## Environmental / Climate Policy

St Benet's Catholic Primary School is a primary school which services the community of Ouston. At St Benet's, our aim is to take meaningful steps toward becoming a Climate Friendly School by reducing our environmental footprint and making responsible, sustainable choices. We acknowledge that our operations have an effect on the environment and have identified the key activities that we believe contribute to our climate footprint:

- Buildings – eg: poorly designed building which needs frequent repairs, requiring more materials over time and having to be demolished sooner than some school buildings
- Energy – e.g. consumption of electricity, gas, water, and other fuels
- Food – eg: food waste, using single use plastic for certain food items
- Grounds – eg: use of plastic in school, paper towels and increased photocopying
- Water – eg: running taps in corridors, water bottles with unwanted water at the end of the school day
- Transport emissions – eg: a high percentage of children in our community travelling to school by car
- Consumption – e.g. use of raw materials and waste generation

Our school is committed to becoming a more environmentally responsible and climate-friendly community. Through the work of our Climate Friendly Action Team (Eco-Group), we aim to reduce waste, encourage sustainable habits, protect our natural environment, and involve pupils, staff and families in meaningful change.

So far, the eco-group has identified a range of practical actions that help everyone play a part in reducing our environmental footprint. Pupils have taken an active leadership role by monitoring how well the school uses its resources, raising awareness, and encouraging small changes that have a big impact.





A key element of our vision is to develop responsible, knowledgeable pupils who understand how their daily choices—such as how they travel, how they use resources, and how they manage waste—affect the planet. Our Climate Action Plan focuses on simple, achievable steps that build good habits across the whole school community.

Key actions identified include:

- 1) Promoting sustainable travel, such as organising a Walk to School Week to reduce traffic and encourage healthy choices.
- 2) Embedding pupil leadership through weekly eco-updates in assemblies, where the eco-group highlights what the school is doing well and what can be improved.
- 3) Encouraging responsible energy use with class awards for switching off lights and screens when they're not needed.
- 4) Raising awareness through posters placed around the school to remind pupils and staff to protect resources such as lighting and laminating materials.
- 5) Reducing waste by introducing a pre-loved item tuck shop and setting up designated recycling points for batteries, glue sticks, and whiteboard pens.
- 6) Supporting sustainable food education by teaching pupils about the benefits of growing their own produce and developing an orchard on the school grounds.
- 7) Engaging families in sustainability by hosting eco-friendly coffee mornings and sharing ideas for greener living at home.
- 8) Sharing responsibility with staff through activities like "Teach the Teacher," where pupils provide feedback on resource use and help teachers make more environmentally friendly choices.

Together, these actions demonstrate our school's ongoing commitment to caring for the environment and building a culture where pupils, staff, and families work collaboratively toward a greener future.





Our school is engaging with the Climate Friendly Schools initiative to strengthen our commitment to environmental responsibility and ensure that our actions contribute positively to a sustainable future. Developing our Environmental and Climate Policy helps us set clear goals, guide our decision-making, and empower pupils and staff to take meaningful climate action.

Our Climate / environmental commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below:

- Consideration given to the environmental impact of the new St Benet's School which shall be built in the next couple of years under the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme.
- Compliance with all applicable standards, laws, requirements, regulations and public / customer expectations.
- Minimising unsustainable transport through the development of a travel plan
- Monitoring our key resource usage and implementing conservation techniques to achieve our targets
- Creating and publishing an Annual Climate Action Report that describes the activities that we are completing.

We will continue to improve our environmental management system by working to the Investors in the Environment (iE) criteria, considering any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all our employees ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.





Catherine Young (Head teacher) is our Sustainability Champion and has designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy.

*Jacob (Y1), Rayna (Y2), Thea (Y3), Juliet (Y4), Killian (Y5), Finlay (Y5) and Cooper (Y6)* are our Climate Friendly Action Team who have responsibility for the creation of the annual Climate Friendly Action Plan and the implementation of at least 10 actions each year.

St Benet's will make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public, including making a copy available on the St Benet's website: [St Benet's Catholic Primary School, Ouston – Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust](#)

Head Teacher:

Signed: *C Young*

Date: *27-03-26*

Chair of Governors:

Signed: *L Gray*

Date: *27-03-26*