



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation
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Barley Barkway Federation First School Climate Action Plan

1. Our Vision & Commitment

We aspire to prepare the children at Barley Barkway Federation to understand about the challenges in our world and want to care about the world around them. Our Climate Action Plan outlines how our school community will take steps to reduce its environmental impact, embed sustainability in teaching and learning, and work towards a greener future for our children. We will teach our children about the challenges for our climate and the world we live in. People are increasingly affected by climate anxiety. We will improve our outdoor learning spaces to help address this and support children's emotional health using our indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

2. Key Objectives

- **Reduce our carbon footprint (energy, water, waste, and travel).**
- **Enhance sustainability in the curriculum through age-appropriate teaching (years N-4)**
- **Improve green spaces and biodiversity within our school grounds.**
- **Teach about and promote sustainable choices among staff, pupils and families.**

3. How will we do this?

Energy & Buildings

Switch to LED lighting where possible and ensure that lights are turned off when classrooms are empty.

Turn off laptop trolleys and IPAD trolleys at the end of each school day.

Monitor energy use monthly and discuss this with the School Council.

Ensure heating is used efficiently and that heating is turned down when appropriate.

Ensure doors remain shut to avoid heat loss.

Explore renewable energy options.



Our Federation vision is to work with parents, Governors and the Diocese of St Albans to provide an outstanding Christian education, inspiring confidence and enthusiasm as well as positively impacting and preparing our pupils for the rest of their lives.

Waste & Recycling

We will:

- Teach about single use plastics and reduce single-use plastics in classrooms and during lunch provision.
- Teach about and increase paper recycling. Reuse paper (scrap paper).
- Develop composting for food waste and garden waste on both sites.
- Organise environmental days where we teach the children about waste and recycling as a whole school.

Travel

We

will:

- Promote walking, cycling, ride and stride and scooting to school.
- Publicise bike storage and opportunities to support families who are cycling to school.

Curriculum & Learning

We

will:

- Embed climate change, sustainability, and nature-based learning across subjects.
- Continue to organise eco-themed assemblies and story times.
- Plan an annual 'Sustainability Day' with cross-curricular activities.
- Use the school grounds for outdoor learning, gardening, physical activities.

Nature & Biodiversity

We

will:

- Plant pollinator-friendly flowers and shrubs on both sites.
- Maintain a wildlife garden or bug hotel on both sites.
- Grow vegetables and herbs with pupils on both sites.
- Encourage bird-feeding and nest-box projects on both sites.
- Continue to nominate Year 4 to visit the Barley Community Garden and enhance their understanding of plant growth and biodiversity.

Our Community

We will:

- **Involve parents and carers in eco-projects, including inviting parents to share their passions about climate and sustainability with the children.**
- **Raise the profile of our commitment to learning about sustainability and biodiversity in our newsletter and the school website.**

4. Pupil engagement

We will:

- **Use our Eco Council to share key messages and drive forward initiatives.**
- **Continue to work with the Rivers Quinn project group to understand about the effect of pollution on our local rivers.**
- **Set up an allotment club for children to take ownership over the school allotment.**
- **Celebrate pupil-led initiatives (posters, competitions, recycling monitors).**
- **Support children to share actions they do at home with school (e.g recycling).**

5. Hertfordshire Resources & Guidance

Our school will make use of [local resources](#) and guidance available through [Hertfordshire County Council](#) and its partners to strengthen our sustainability work.

Key resources include:

- **Hertfordshire Sustainability Guide for Schools – a digital toolkit across energy, waste, water, air, and biodiversity.**
- **Hertfordshire School Travel Plan programme – supporting safer, greener journeys to school.**
- **Local net-zero case studies: Buntingford First School (Net Zero Carbon) and The Valley School (pilot).**
- **Sustainability Support for Education**

6. Working with Parents and Families

We will:

- **Encourage family participation in eco-events, gardening days, and sustainability weeks.**
- **Share eco-tips, progress updates, and child-led initiatives in newsletters and on our website.**

7. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Sustainability

Sustainability is introduced through age-appropriate activities linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. We will provide opportunities for young children to connect with nature and understand their role in caring for the environment throughout their curriculum.

Examples include:

- **Planting seeds, bug hunts, making bug hotels and exploring our local area to observe wildlife including insects.**
- **Model recycling, reusing and talking about the importance of saving energy and water.**
- **Use stories as a way to teach children about nature and how to care for the planet.**
- **Use recycled material to raise awareness of how to reuse materials.**
- **Take our learning outside ensuring links to Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding the World (EYFS areas of learning).**
- **Support our children to be curious about their environment and the world they live in, ask questions and answer questions and find out information.**

8. Key Stage 1, lower key stage 2 and our teaching about Sustainability

Sustainability will continue to be taught from years 1-4 through age-appropriate activities linked to the National Curriculum. Children will learn about nature, the world they live in and sustainability through story times, events and through the curriculum. We will inspire children to want to connect with nature and understand how their actions now will support our environment and the world we live in.

In years 1-4 this might include :

- **School allotment, bug hunts, planting seeds, and exploring local wildlife.**
- **Nature-based story times and role play focused on caring for the planet.**
- **Using recycled materials in art projects or other areas of learning.**
- **Forest School and outdoor learning opportunities.**
- **Adhering to our recycling and energy saving commitment across the Federation.**

9. BBF targets for 2025-2026

Carry out an energy review.

Appoint a nominated sustainability lead.

Agree energy aims and monitor electricity meter readings.

Turn lights off when classrooms are not in use. Aim to reduce our electricity bills by 1% per annum.

Everyone is responsible for ensuring taps are turned off and avoiding water waste.

Teach about single use plastic and aim to cut down single use plastic.

Plant the allotment with a range of flowers and vegetables.

Run an allotment club for children as an enrichment activity beyond science teaching and learning.

10. Long-Term Goals (by 2030)

We will keep abreast of developments in education relating to sustainability and the climate crisis. We will teach about sustainability to prepare our children to be responsible global citizens. We aspire for our children to understand that small changes that we make now will have a positive impact on our planet now and in the future.

Headteacher: Lara Miere
December 2025

Assistant Headteacher: Carol Porter