LIGHTHOUSE
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan

2025 - 2028

Castlefort Academy

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MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

"The future depends on what you do today".

Mahatma Gandhi

Castlefort Academy

At the Lighthouse Multi Academy Trust we are committed to educating pupils about the importance of respecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. We recognise we have a duty to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution to improving our local area.

It is important to us, that each academy community has an awareness and understanding of the effects of their negative and positive actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions, and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

Furthermore, academies are at the hearts of their communities and therefore have the responsibility of being local leaders in behavioural changes and sustainable practices. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst staff and pupils and to educate and inspire our wider community.

Castlefort Academy's Action Plan is an essential tool to measure, manage and reduce our carbon footprint, having identified real opportunities to reduce emissions, and take steps to reach our climate ambition.

The **Climate Action Team** at Castlefort Academy plays a crucial role in implementing the steps in this guide and overseeing the academy's efforts towards sustainability.

Our climate action team consists of:

Role	**Named member of staff**
Sustainability Lead	Gareth Hawkins
Office Manager	Charlotte Cullen
Site Manager/ Care Taker	Dan Shaw
Forest School lead/ Outdoor learning lead	Megan Calcroft
PE Lead	Mark Forbes
Curriculum Lead	Jo Wilson
Science Lead	Gemma Harrison
Geography Lead	Amanda Jeffery
Cooking Lead	Gemma Harrison
Computing Lead	Gareth Hawkins
Kitchen Manager (Catering)	Cheryl Hammond
Governor	Ceri Porter

The Action Plan DFE Core Pillars:

- **Decarbonisation:** Reducing emissions (energy efficiency, renewables).
- **Adaptation & Resilience:** Preparing for climate impacts (flooding, overheating).
- **Biodiversity & Nature:** Enhancing green spaces (e.g., National Education Nature Park).
- **Climate Education & Green Skills:** Teaching about climate change.

Pupil groups	**Eco Warriors** 2 eco warriors per class	**Energy Monitors** 1 energy monitor per class.

The plan is split into two sections:

- Section 1: Commitment to continue with the actions we are already taking
- Section 2: Action Plan for change

Section 1: Our commitment to continue with the following actions

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate education and green careers	We continue to deliver a termly assembly (3 per academic year) on what the academy is already doing around the environment and climate change, and how pupils can get involved in this work.	Sustainability Lead
2	Climate education and green careers	We continue to seek out good practice to get inspired and share learning with other education settings on learning about climate change.	Sustainability Lead
3	Climate education and green careers	Through lessons, assemblies and the curriculum planning we encourage behavioural change by the pupils to help the environment.	Sustainability Lead
4	Climate education and green careers	The curriculum at Castlefort Academy is designed to teach young people about nature in their local area, for example different types of land and habitats, how they are managed, and weather patterns.	Curriculum Lead
5	Climate education and green careers	At least one academy fieldwork trip each year includes time spent in nature or among wildlife.	Geography Lead Science Lead
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation	Clear recycling systems in place: clear expectations on what can be recycled. Separate recycling bins clearly labelled. Recycling separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Site Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Second hand uniform shop available to parents.	Sustainability Lead
3	Decarbonisation	Paperless communication with parents.	Office Manager
4	Biodiversity	Regular litter picks completed around academy site by pupils / eco team. Community litter picks with families each year.	Sustainability Lead
5	Decarbonisation	Print release system is in place enabling users to collect prints from any device after entering a pin number and confirming the number and type of copies to reduce wasted printing.	Office Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Food			
1	Decarbonisation	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste.	Kitchen Manager
2	Climate education and green careers	Promote more vegetarian options and reduce the number of meat options / days. The menu includes at least two meet free days a week and 1 vegetarian option every day.	Kitchen Manager
3	Climate education and green careers	Lunch time is managed to reduce queuing time and to ensure all pupils are given time to eat and time to play to reduce food waste due to pupils feeling they do not have enough time to eat.	Sustainability Lead
4	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are educated about the impact of food waste on the climate and are encouraged to take action in the academy and at home.	Sustainability Lead
Air Quality			
1	Climate education and green careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike, and scooter to reduce pollution near the academy. There is a bike/scooter storage.	Sustainability Lead Site Manager
2	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality.	Site Manager Forest School Lead / Outdoor Learning Lead
3	Adaptation and Resilience	Window and door maintenance plan in place to help air circulate better, improving pupil health and reducing their exposure to air pollution.	Office Manager Site Manager
Travel			
1	Decarbonisation	Pupils encouraged to walk, scoot or bike to the academy and there is a safe/ dedicated place to leave scooters/ bikes.	Sustainability Lead
2	Decarbonisation	Bikeability training and cycling club offered to pupils in both key stages.	PE Lead
3	Decarbonisation	Parents/ carers of pupils in Year 6 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from the academy.	Sustainability Lead
4	Climate Education and Green Careers	Travel questionnaire is completed annually which gives informative data.	Sustainability Lead
5	Decarbonisation	No school trips involve air travel. Transport modes for trips are considered. Trips close to the academy are first consideration.	Office Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Reducing Energy			
1	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders to staff to switch off all lights, appliances and plugs when not in use. Energy monitors have been nominated in each class.	Site Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Energy costs are monitored monthly and concerns investigated to ensure reduction in energy, particularly when building not in use.	Office Manager Site Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Room thermometers are used to monitor temperature levels; for heating purposes we maintain the following temperature levels: • 18°C - 20 °C for classrooms, library and offices • 16°C for corridors, halls, washrooms and circulation areas	Site Manager
4	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	Site Manager
5	Decarbonisation	LED lighting installed across the school and outdoor security lights are on timers, some indoor lights on sensors.	Site Manager
6	Decarbonisation	Ensure that windows are clear of displays, posters and furniture to allow the maximum amount of natural light.	Site Manager
Water			
1	Climate education and green careers	Curriculum plans include learning about local water scarcity and hazard risks to encourage a culture of saving, rather than wasting water and to encourage creative ideas for how water can be saved at school.	Curriculum Lead

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Outdoor Space			
1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the academy including regular forest school and/or outdoor learning sessions for every pupil.	Forest School Lead / Outdoor Learning Lead Site Manager
2	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are involved in looking after our green spaces.	Forest School Lead / Outdoor Learning Lead
3	Climate education and green careers	Gardening and Forest School clubs are offered throughout the year	Forest School Lead / Outdoor Learning Lead
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste.	Office Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used.	Office Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Academy use local contractors to help carbon reduction targets.	Office Manager Site Manager
4	Decarbonisation	Academy uniform does not have to be branded.	Sustainability lead

Section 2: Action Plan for change

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
1. Find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, especially in subjects where it may usually be absent such as PE, art or history.	Climate education and green careers	Evidence of curriculum links across subjects i.e. An art project showing the impact of climate change.	To be fully embedded by September 2026	Art Lead Science Lead PE Lead	
2. Teach pupils about how to reduce/eliminate single-use plastics at home.	Climate education and green careers	Children and parents understand single-use plastics and reduce using these.	To be fully embedded by April 2026	Sustainability Lead Pupil Eco warriors	
3. Increase integration of climate change into Science, Geography and PSHE.	Climate education and green careers	Clear evidence of subject integration and regular learning of climate change	To be fully embedded by September 2027	Curriculum Lead Sustainability Lead	
4. To deliver World Environment Day in June 2026	Climate education and green careers	Children in all year groups to learn about sustainability through World Environment Day June 2026.	June 2026	Curriculum Lead	
5. To achieve the Green Flag Award.	Climate education and green careers	The Eco Warriors will support the academy in achieving the green flag award.	From September 2027	Sustainability Lead Site Manager	
5. To train two members of staff and a governor on Carbon Literacy and promote this across the academy community.	Decarbonisation	Staff to deliver sessions on how children can reduce their carbon footprints.	From September 2027	Sustainability Lead	

Waste					
1. Minimise the academy's paper use e.g. reduce paper consumption by printing only when necessary and printing on both sides.	Decarbonisation	Printer settings are set to default to print both sides. Printing margins are decreased. Where possible homework and assignments are completed online. Move to an online dinner register to reduce paper registers.	To be fully embedded by September 2026.	Office manager Computing lead Sustainability Lead	
2. Records Management system in place to reduce the amount of information saved on network drivers and on the cloud.	Decarbonisation	Information on school networks is needed and used by at least one member of staff.	To be fully embedded by September 2025	Office manager Computing lead	
3. Review cleaning system. Reduce use of chemicals and begin using refills and reusable product bottles wherever possible. Using chemical cleaning products also has health implications, particularly for people with asthma.	Decarbonisation	Cleaning products used are refilled and reusable bottles.	To be fully embedded by September 2026	Office manager Site Manager	
4. Educate kitchen staff on school recycling systems.	Decarbonisation	Provide kitchen with different coloured bins and clear recycling bags.	To be fully embedded by April 2026	Office manager Site Manager Kitchen staff (Catering)	
5. Batteries and ink cartridges to be disposed of effectively.	Decarbonisation	To ensure all ink cartridges disposed of effectively.	To be fully embedded by April 2026	Office manager	
6. Hold competitions between classrooms to see who recycles the most and keeps their room tidiest.	Climate Education and Green Careers	All classrooms to have a paper waste recycling bin. Termly classroom check for prize for tidiest room.	To be fully embedded by September 2026	Sustainability Lead	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Food					
1. Encourage pupils and staff to bring plastic free packed lunches.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Reward system in place Reduction in waste.	September 2026	Office Manager Sustainability Lead	
2. Set up an allotment to grow fruit and vegetables on academy site.	Biodiversity	Pupils grow food on the academy allotment which is then used in cooking sessions and sold to parents.	May 2026	Cooking Lead	
3. Create and promote appealing menus to reduce food waste.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Ensure portion sizes are correct. Each class collects food waste and take to 'red fruit bin' for composting each day.	April 2026	Office Manager Catering	
4. Look at food waste recycling within the local authority.	Decarbonsisation	All food wasted on academy site is recycled	January 2026	Office Manager Catering	
Air quality					
1. Educate pupils about air pollution - how they and their households can reduce their exposure to pollution (how much they breathe in) - how they can reduce their contribution to it.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Awareness is raised during clean air week in June and throughout the curriculum. Information sent home to parents about how they can reduce their air pollution.	June 2026	Sustainability Lead	
2. Engage pupils, staff and parents/carers in science activities to monitor air quality levels on the academy site and in the nearby areas.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Activities are in place to regularly monitor the air quality levels on the academy site and local area.	October 2026	Sustainability Lead Science Lead	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Travel					
1. Encourage staff and pupils to change the way they travel to the academy.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Tokens in the hall to provide visual representation of travel modes.	Fully embedded September 2026	Sustainability Lead	
2. Install electric vehicle charging points	Decarbonisation	Apply for transport – EVC ChargePoint and infrastructure grant	2027 - 2028	Office Manager Premises officer	
Energy					
1. Conduct a review of how well insulated the academy building is.	Decarbonisation	Look at draught proofing windows and doors to keep as much heat in as possible.	October 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	
2. Solar panels to be sought for school roof.	Decarbonisation	Solar panels to be added to the academy roof once.	2027 - 2028	Office Manager Site Manager	
3. Power-down days are implemented once a year to raise awareness.	Decarbonisation	Reduced printing and energy consumption is witnessed across the academy.	From September 2026	Sustainability Lead Site Manager	
Outdoor Space					
1. To ensure no chemicals are used within our outside space to prevent harm to wildlife.	Biodiversity	Work with grounds maintenance teams to find alternatives to chemicals.	June 2026	Office Manager Site Manager	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale /Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
2. Birdbaths, feeders, birdhouses, bug hotels, bee hotels, and ponds all installed to support local wildlife.	Biodiversity	Increase in wildlife to the area	Autumn 2026	Forest School Lead	
3. To create a pumpkin patch on school site.	Biodiversity	For pumpkins to be grown on the academy site and given to families.	Autumn 2027	Office Manager Site Manager Science Lead	
Water					
1. Encourage staff, parents and pupils to use refillable water bottles / coffee cups and educate them to pour leftover water onto the garden.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Less disposables being used at events. Leftover water being re-used for plants etc.	Fully embedded in September 2026	Sustainability Lead	
2. Water butts used around the site to collect rain water which is then used to water allotments and plants.	Adaptation and Resilience	Academy community is aware of water butts on the academy site and how they are used.	Fully embedded September 2025	Site Manager Cooking Lead	
3. Ensure all sinks have access to plugs and staff are encouraged to not wash up under a running tap.	Adaptation and Resilience	Plugs in sinks and these are being used.	Spring term 2026	Site Manager	
4. Change taps in bathrooms/toilet areas to be sensor powered to avoid taps being left on.	Adaptation and Resilience	Seek grant funding to replace - look at sensor options. Measurable reduction in water use.	September 2027	Office Manager Site Manager	

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Procurement					
1. Review common purchases to identify more sustainable alternatives.	Decarbonisation	20% of common purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	Fully embedded in September 2026	Office Manager	
2. Identify factors causing emissions from your regular or high value purchases – consider transport, disposable commodities, energy and fuel use, packaging, primary and secondary waste.	Decarbonisation	20% of regular and high value purchases moves to sustainable alternatives	September 2026	Business Manager	
3. Once purchases have reached end of life, is there an alternative use? Consider take back schemes offered by some of your suppliers e.g. for furniture, recycling schemes or donating to local charities.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in waste / skip use More items recycled/ repurposed	July 2026	Site Manager Officer Manager	