

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School



**We aspire that through the love of Jesus everyone should
"have life and have it to the full."
Jn. 10v10**

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Approved by: School Governors	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed on:	Date: September 2025
Next review date:	Sept 2026

Sustainability Policy and Climate Action plan

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1. Vision and Commitment

At Our Lady's Nursery, we are committed to nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious children. Our sustainability policy is embedded into our daily practice and culture, supporting the DfE's ambition for all education settings to be models of sustainability. Although we are part of Our Lady's School, we maintain a tailored and independent sustainability policy to ensure maximum efficiency and impact in our early years provision.

2. Sustainable Practice in Action

1. Resource Use

- We stock our setting using recycled, reused, and repurposed materials.
- Our loose parts provision is resourced from items that would otherwise be discarded, such as:
 - Old food tins, lids, milk bottles
 - Egg cartons, cardboard tubes, and boxes
 - Carpet samples and offcuts of artificial grass
 - Pine cones, bark, sticks, conkers
 - Shopping crates, planks, old tyres, wooden bobbins, pallets, and tubes from building sites
- We have minimal plastic toys, and where used, they are second-hand or recycled.
- Our paint is diluted with water to reduce waste and water consumption during clean-up.
- All paper used is either recycled, repurposed, or offcuts from the main school, including photocopier waste, guillotine offcuts, and shredded paper used for scissor skills.

2. Outdoor Environment

- Our outdoor provision is balanced between a man-made area (with artificial grass) and a rich, wild natural area.
- The wild area includes:
 - Natural grass, trees, wildflowers, and climbing stones
 - A wildflower section for pollinators, maintained with no artificial intervention
- We are developing:
 - A vegetable patch, to teach children about growing food and seasonal planting
 - Renovation of our soil and turf area around the tunnel to encourage more biodiversity
- Our mud kitchen and percussion areas are entirely created from recycled materials, such as saucepans and old tools.

3. Energy and Water Conservation

- Children are actively taught to:
 - Turn off lights when leaving a room
 - Use only one squirt of soap when washing hands
 - Turn taps off to prevent water waste
 - Use one paper towel for drying to protect trees
- We have installed draft strips on external doors to reduce heating loss.
- We do not use air conditioning, instead closing blinds to regulate indoor temperature naturally.

4. Nature, Respect, and Environmental Stewardship

- We teach children to:
 - Respect all living creatures
 - Care for their environment through hands-on experience
 - Play with open-ended materials that inspire creativity and reduce consumerism

- Use old blankets to create dens and forts
- Our seasonal practice includes collecting natural materials, such as conkers, to use as learning tools and sensory play resources.

3. Our Lady's Nursery Climate Action Plan

Aims (2025–2027)

In alignment with the DfE's climate strategy, our action plan outlines short- and medium-term goals to continue reducing our carbon footprint and promoting sustainable education.

Area	Action	Timeframe	Impact
Energy	Maintain use of draft strips; monitor room temperatures to avoid excess heating	Ongoing	Reduced energy consumption
Outdoor Learning	Introduce vegetable patch with child-led care	By Spring 2025	Sustainable food knowledge and eco-literacy
Biodiversity	Maintain and protect the wild area, with minimal intervention	Ongoing	Habitat preservation and pollinator support
Resources	Continue to collect and source all materials from recycled or donated items	Ongoing	Waste reduction and circular economy practice
Curriculum	Develop themed weeks focused on sustainability and nature (e.g. "Eco Explorers Week")	Starting Autumn 2025	Enhanced environmental education
Water Use	Reinforce handwashing conservation techniques	Ongoing	Water savings and awareness
Materials	Replace broken or damaged artificial items with natural or recycled alternatives	As needed	Long-term sustainability and reduced waste

4. Conclusion

Our Lady's Nursery believes that even our youngest learners can make a meaningful impact on the planet. Through imaginative play, hands-on learning, and environmentally responsible practice, we are laying the foundation for a greener future—one stick, crate, and conker at a time.