Climate Action Plan

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

1-year plan Autumn 2024 – 2025

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**Carbon baseline: 105.67 tCo2e Calculation Date: Nov 24**

[www.letsgozero.org](http://www.letsgozero.org)

**Decarbonisation and energy efficiency**   
**Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient**

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| **GET STARTED** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Sign up to the** [**Let’s Go Zero**](https://letsgozero.org/join/) **campaign**  By joining this campaign, your school confirms that it is taking action now to reduce its own carbon impact, and that it demands the UK Government help all schools reach this goal by the end of the decade. | **Cost:** free!  **Savings:** none | Easy | **Start:**  **Review:** |  | **Laudato Si:**   “If someone has not learned to stop and admire something beautiful, we should not be surprised if he or she treats everything as an object to be used and abused without scruple. If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature.” | **COMPLETED 2021** |
| **Calculate your school’s carbon footprint using** [**Count Your Carbon**](https://www.countyourcarbon.org/)**:** This free digital tool allows you to calculate the carbon footprint for your educational setting. | **Cost:** free!  **Savings:** none | Moderate | **Start:**  **Review:** |  | **COMPLETED** |

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| **ENERGY** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Create switch off policies and checklists for end of day/week/term**  e.g. sleep settings on computers and projectors and turning off scanners/ printers overnight Implement power down strategies across the school. Fridges and freezers are often overlooked, check every fridge including the staffroom to be turned off over holiday periods and condense frozen food down to only 1 freezer, particularly over long breaks to reduce base load during unoccupied periods. | **Cost:** free!  **Savings:** medium | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM3.2)** Leaders and governors embrace and actively promote the bishop’s vision for the diocese including our aims to be Carbon Zero by 2030. They are enthusiastic in their response to diocesan policies and initiatives by engaging in active energy reduction and are seeking ways in which to meet ambitious Diocesan targets including ambitious retrofit projects. |  |
| **Install timer-controlled electric switches**  e.g. laptop charging banks to reduce energy required to charge or laptop updates overnight Using time controlled switches on laptop charging banks to charge them overnight will allow you to charge them using the cheapest energy over night, while also limiting the time they are plugged in which will save energy too. | **Cost:** moderate  Savings: medium | Easy | **Start: Summer term ‘25**  **Review:** | **SLT** |  |

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| **PROCUREMENT** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Consider carbon footprint and environmental practices of the services/companies you use**  Develop a Sustainable Procurement policy or strategy. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start:**  **Review:** | **Plymouth CAST - RCF** | **Laudato Si:**   “We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels. The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problem of poverty. |  |
| **Factor in energy efficiency when buying new equipment such as ovens, fridges, kettles etc. (using efficiency ratings to guide purchases)**  Ensure that cost is balanced against the efficiency rating of electrical appliances to compensate upfront cost with running cost and longevity. E.g. Choosing only appliances that are highest efficiency rating for that product e.g. E for fridges over F. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** **Cost:** low | Easy | **Start: As necessary**  **Review:** | **SLT** |  |
| **Replace ICT equipment that is at end of life with energy-efficient alternatives**  Purchasing new IT equipment based on energy efficiency ratings and considering buying second hand and refurbished IT equipment to **Cost:** lower the cost and carbon footprint. | **Cost:** medium **Savings:** **Cost:** low | Moderate | **Start: As necessary**  **Review:** | **SLT** |  |

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| **FOOD** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Explain reasons for eating less meat during lessons, assemblies etc.**  Explore [Pro-Veg’s Canteen to Classroom teaching resources](https://proveg.org/uk/canteen-to-classroom/). Promote plant-based menu options. Aim to increase uptake of plant-based meals through lessons and pupil-led assemblies. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** n/a | Moderate | **Start: Summer term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW/LM** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM3.5)**   Leaders and governors are inspirational witnesses to the Gospel and to Catholic Social Teaching in their direction of the school at every level: this is shown through our decisions surrounding the nourishment of our pupils, staff and community. They embody the Church’s preferential option for the poor by ensuring that resources are consciously and effectively targeted at those in greatest need through our work on minimising food waste. In every one of their decisions, such as supporting meat reduction on our school menus, they demonstrate an exemplary commitment to care for our Common Home, to the pursuit of the common good and to service of those in greatest need. |  |
| **Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates and share results**  Consider involving the children in daily weigh-in of food waste quantities as part of education and feed this back to school caterer to make necessary changes to dishes/menu. | **Cost:** medium **Savings:** **Cost:** low | Moderate | **Start: Summer term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW** |  |

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| **TRANSPORT** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Conduct a staff and student travel survey**  Carry out a travel survey to get an understanding of student and staff travel. This can be done as a simple 'hands up' survey in a form time session. You can do this using the CYC tool as a guide, or other resources from Sustrans or other active travel organisations. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Oct ‘24**  **Review: Sept ‘25** | **LGZ/BW** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM1.3)**   Through actions such as our sustainable travel campaigns, pupils gladly embrace their personal responsibility to care for our Common Home, pursue the common good and through their global actions on transport, serve those in need | **COMPLETE  (FOR CYC)** |
| **Run active travel campaigns e.g.** [**Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel**](https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/register)  Participate in the three annual Active Travel Weeks: Living Streets, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and Cycle to School Week. Aim for these events to trigger a permanent shift to sustainable travel from students who live locally enough to do so. | **Cost:** low **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: March ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW** |  |

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| **WASTE** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Explore** [**Devon CC’s resources**](https://zone.recycledevon.org/teachers/) **and free workshops and visits** | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** low-medium | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25 Review:** | **CW** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM1.3.)** Through our mission to act as stewards of our common home, our pupils have a clear understanding that the school community is committed to following the teaching and example of Jesus as expressed in the Gospels, the social teaching of the Church and the school’s own particular charism.  As a result of taking part in our waste reduction actions, such as donating their pre-loved uniform to our uniform swap shops, pupils flourish as they seek opportunities to grow in virtue. Through leading campaigns, such as recycling the canteens, they gladly embrace their personal responsibility to care for our Common Home, pursue the common good and serve those in need. |  |
| **Label bins clearly**  Implement clear signage on bins to support with behaviour change. [Wastebusters have signs and resources](https://www.wastebuster.co.uk/resources/results?types=Posters-Signage) designed for primary age. | **Cost:** Free!  **Savings:** low | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW Eco-warriors** |  |
| **Engage with a plastic reduction campaign e.g. Surfers Against Sewage**  Become a [Plastic Free School](https://plasticfreeschools.org.uk/get-involved/teachers/) through the great campaign run by Surfers Against Sewage. | **Cost:** low **Savings:** low | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW** |  |
| **Start regular litter picks on site**  **Devon County Council have litter picking kits that they lend to schools, and there is also a lesson plan on litter picking** [**here.**](https://zone.recycledevon.org/litter-pack/) | **Cost:** Free!  **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW Eco-warriors** |  |

**Climate adaptation and resilience**  
Taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating and to future-proof scarce resources for potential shortages

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| **ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Explore ways to improve air-flow through Beth’s classroom** | **Cost:** ?  **Savings:** n/a | Moderate | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **SLT** |  |  |

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| **WATER** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Raise awareness around water consumption and efficiency through workshops and displays that may be offered by your water provider South West Water**  Consider engaging with [South West Water’s education team](https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/our-south-west/education) which offers assembly sessions and visits to primary schools for your pupils to learn more about water efficiency, saving water and the impacts of pollution.  [WaterAid](https://www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/teaching-resources) also have some great water focused teaching resources, and offer [free workshops](https://www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/teaching/book-free-educational-workshop) to schools. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** low | Easy | **Start: Summer term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW Eco-warriors** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM1.4)**   Pupils take a leading role in responding to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching and are pro-active in finding ways of responding, locally, nationally and globally to issues surrounding water conservation. They can clearly articulate the theology underpinning their actions to care for our common home, locally through turning off taps and collecting rainwater for our gardens through to global action for all God's children, such as supporting our adaptation and resilience measures |  |
| **Install water butts**  Capture rainwater to use on plants around school - and help reduce water flow in heavy downpours. | **Cost:** low **Savings:** low | Moderate | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **SLT** |  |

**Biodiversity and green infrastructure**  
**Creating habitats and adopting practices that will enhance species diversity on the school estate and beyond**

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| **NATURE** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Establish a gardening/ nature club** Set up a gardening club for students, consider how plants could be used and incorporated into school meals once grown to give students experience of growing their own food. Register your school with [RHS Campaign](https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Register) for School Gardening and receive a free welcome pack containing seeds and growing resources. ​ | **Cost:** medium **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **Ruth D Father J** | **Catholic Life and Mission (CLM1.4)** Through our care for the natural world, our pupils take a leading role in responding to the demands of Catholic Social Teaching and are pro-active in finding ways of responding, locally, nationally and globally. They can clearly articulate the theology underpinning their actions such as protecting God's world and caring for its inhabitants. They carry out this mission through wildflower seeding, tree planting and tending our gardens. |  |
| **Enrol with The Nature Park (NENP)** Enrol in [The National Education Nature Park programme](https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/). It aims to embed nature-based learning in the curriculum, and encourage children and young people all over the country to take action to improve their site for people and wildlife. The programme provides the support and guidance needed to make this happen, with five key steps in the journey and the actions needed to reach your goals. | **Cost:** free! **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start:**  **Review:** |  | **COMPLETE (CHECK)** |

**Climate Education, Green Skills and Green careers:**   
**Ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff feel supported to offer this**

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| **CULTURE** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Add sustainability goals/ projects/ successes to school website** Celebrate your achievements and engage your community in your climate action plans by adding a dedicated Sustainability page to your school website. You can also include links to Let's Go Zero and other organisations you are engaging with. Update it with photos or student-written blogs if you can. | **Cost:** free **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Autumn term ‘25**  **Review:** | **RM BW** | **Laudato Si:**   “There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about realchanges in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as cooking only what can reasonably be consumed and showing care for other living beings.“ |  |
| **Appoint a sustainability lead with sufficient PPA and support** Appoint a sustainability lead in line with the expectations in the DfE's Climate Change policy. Provide the sustainability lead with sufficient PPA/ TLR | **Cost:** low **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Nov ‘25**  **Review:** | **SLT BW** | **COMPLETE** |
| **Set up an eco-club for pupils to take leadership on issues** Establish a student Eco club - consider inclusivity and longevity of projects so that as many students as possible can be part throughout their time at school. | **Cost:** free **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **BW CW** |  |
| **Set up a sustainability working group including PTA** Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school who are able to collaborate, and effect change incl. SLT, site manager, teachers, and PTA – ensure one person has oversight, taking the title of ‘Sustainability Lead’. | **Cost:** low **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Autumn term**  **Review:** | **BW SLT** |  |
| **Provide CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability** CPD for staff e.g. sharing existing sustainability content and developing skills through Carbon Literacy training or climate FRESK (this can be delivered by your Climate Action Advisor in a 3 hour session with up to 7 staff for Free). | **Cost:** low **Savings:** n/a |  | **Start: Spring term ‘25**  **Review:** | **JG -LGZ** |  |
| **Staff to attend local sustainability networks & events** Include sustainability networks and events in your staff CPD offer and encourage and support staff to attend. You can include Let's Go Zero's webinar schedule in your CPD offer plus events from UKSSN, National Education Nature Park and other offers local to your school. Sign up to [Devon County Council’s Sustainability Zone newsletter.](https://zone.recycledevon.org/sustainability-bulletin/) Join the [UKSSN Ops Group](https://ops.ukssn.org/). | **Cost:** low **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Autumn term**  **Review:** | **BW** |  |

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| **CURRICULUM** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Complete a curriculum audit & incorporate sustainability** [Teach the Future](https://www.teachthefuture.uk/tracked-changes-project) have amazing resources on how to link the curriculum to sustainability! . [MoEE](https://www.ministryofeco.org/curriculum/)) also has very helpful resources on this. | **Cost:** free **Savings:** n/a | Moderate | **Start: Summer term ‘25**  **Review:** | **DF** |  |  |

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| **GREEN SKILLS AND CAREERS** | | | | | | |
| **ACTION** | **COST** | **EASE** | **TIMEFRAME** | **STAKEHOLDERS** | **CSI SEF LINK** | **PROGRESS** |
| **Access the Climate Ambassadors scheme**  Connect with Climate Ambassadors in your region and invite them to do school assemblies on green skills and curriculum-linked topics. | **Cost:** free **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Autumn term**  **Review:** | **BW JG - LGZ** |  |  |
| **Enrol on the DfE’s Sustainability Support for Education site** | **Cost:** free **Savings:** n/a | Easy | **Start: Autumn term**  **Review:** | **BW** |  |  |



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