



Climate Action Plan



William Patten Primary School





CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



At William Patten Primary School, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we're excited to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. Our work in this area will also involve wider use of our new nature playground area, and maintenance of other new playground features that support sustainability including our pond and herb garden. We we will also be planting, growing and harvesting edible produce from our rooftop garden, and planting flowers which attract pollenators. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at William Patten Primary School to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

SUMMARY

14 items





Section

DECARBONISATION

DELIVER A GREATER PROPRTION OF LESSONS OUTSIDE

Outdoor lessons provide pupils with fresh air and a change of scenery while reducing reliance on indoor lighting and heating. Whether it's reading in a shaded area, conducting science experiments outside, or using school gardens for hands-on learning, outdoor education fosters engagement and sustainability awareness. This target will utilise the school's new rewilded area.

Termly activity, documented and communicated in the Patten Pages

RUN A SWITCH OFF CAMPAIGN

A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions and real-time energy monitoring can make energy efficiency a long-term habit.

Eco-Team led activity - Autumn 1.





Section

DECARBONISATION

TRAVEL SURVEY

A travel survey helps schools gather data on pupil and staff commuting habits. By understanding travel patterns, schools can identify opportunities to encourage more sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport. This information can support decisions on bike rack installations, road safety improvements, and incentive programs for eco-friendly commuting.

To maximise the benefit of this activity, the school will engage with and follow the TFL 'Travel for Life' scheme*.

***Enrolment during Autumn Term, with actions following the eframework throughout the year to achieve accreditation Summer 2025.**



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Audit and Reduce Single-Use Plastics

Schools can conduct an audit of their plastic use, identifying areas where single-use plastics can be eliminated or replaced with sustainable alternatives. This includes plastic cutlery, straws, and packaging materials. Encouraging the use of reusable water bottles and lunch containers can also contribute to waste reduction.

This awareness will be applied to special school events, as well as within the school's day-to-day operations.

Ongoing, throughout the school year

UTILISE OUTDOOR SPACES FOR 'FOOD RESILIENCE'

By growing their own fruits and vegetables, schools reduce reliance on external food sources. This initiative provides hands-on sustainability education, promotes healthy eating, and fosters a sense of community among pupils and staff.

The majority of this activity will take place in the roof garden and the rewilded playground area.

Implement a Spring Term Growing and Planting overview





Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

INVESTIGATE THE POTENTIAL TO FIT SOLAR FILM ON SOUTH FACING WINDOWS

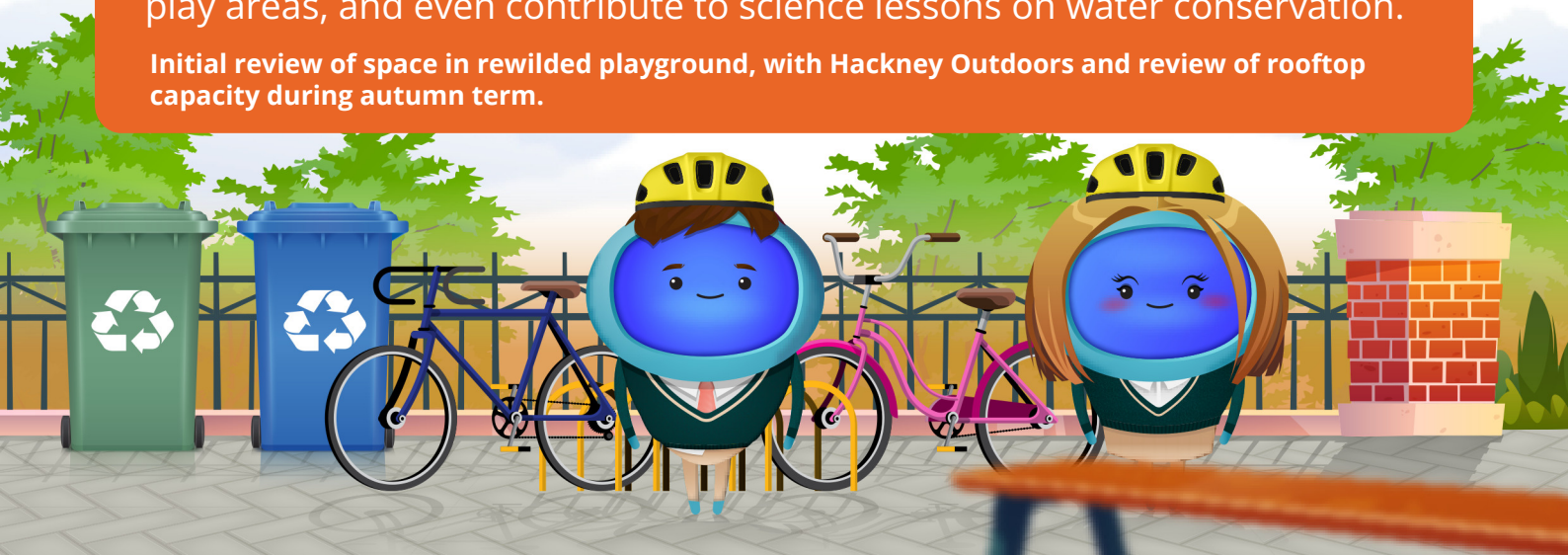
Installing solar film on windows helps regulate indoor temperatures by reducing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. This reduces the reliance on air conditioning and heating systems, leading to lower energy consumption and improved comfort in classrooms. Solar film also reduces glare, protects furniture from UV damage, and extends the lifespan of interior materials by preventing sun-related wear. Schools that install solar film benefit from a more stable indoor climate, leading to improved learning conditions and reduced operational costs over time.

Initial viability review to be followed by costings in Autumn Term.

INVESTIGATE INSTALLATION OF WATER BUTTS

Water butts allow schools to collect and store rainwater, reducing dependence on mains water for irrigation, cleaning, and other non-drinking purposes. This initiative helps conserve water, cut utility costs, and educate pupils on sustainable water management practices. Schools implementing water butts can use them to water gardens, supply outdoor play areas, and even contribute to science lessons on water conservation.

Initial review of space in rewilded playground, with Hackney Outdoors and review of rooftop capacity during autumn term.



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

USE PAPER FROM RESPONSIBLE SOURCES FOR PRINTING

Schools can significantly reduce their environmental impact by switching to recycled or FSC-certified paper for printing. Recycled paper manufacturing requires less water and energy compared to virgin paper, reducing carbon emissions. Schools should also consider digital alternatives to minimise paper use.

In place - Autumn 2025





Section

BIODIVERSITY

PARTICIPATE IN THE RSPB BIRDWATCH

Schools can engage pupils in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Birdwatch, an annual citizen science event where participants record and report bird sightings. This initiative helps develop observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts. Schools can integrate this activity into science and geography lessons to reinforce learning.

Eco-Team Activity - Scheduled for 23-25 January 2026

SIGN UP TO EDUCATION NATURE PARK

Schools can participate in local or national education nature park programs to connect pupils with nature-based learning experiences. These programs provide hands-on engagement with biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability. By participating, pupils gain a deeper appreciation of the environment, and schools can access valuable teaching resources and support for outdoor learning initiatives.

In place (Autumn 2025) - To extend beyond sessions led by Hackney Outdoors in the Nature Playground.





Section

CLIMATE EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS

CREATE A SCHOOL ECO COMMITTEE

A school eco committee gives pupils the opportunity to lead sustainability projects, influence school policies, and advocate for environmental improvements. This initiative fosters leadership, encourages responsibility, and ensures sustainability remains a core focus in school decision-making.

Recruitment process for new representatives - September 2025.

DEVELOP AN OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM FOCUSED ON NATURE

Outdoor learning programs provide pupils with hands-on experiences in nature, teaching them about local ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation. Schools can create learning gardens, conduct nature walks, or collaborate with conservation groups to enhance pupil engagement with the environment.

Continue link with Hackney Outdoors to coordinate use of Rewilded Playground. Coordinate visits by the Eco Committee to undertake environmental work with Eco Active at Springfield Park.





Section

CLIMATE EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS

HOST A SUSTAINABILITY-THEMED ASSEMBLY EACH TERM

Hosting a sustainability-themed assembly each term ensures that pupils remain engaged with environmental topics. These events can feature guest speakers, pupil-led presentations, and school-wide challenges to encourage participation. Assemblies help build a culture of sustainability and reinforce its importance throughout the school community.

Integral within start-of-the-week assemblies, to ensure contextualisation (eg 22/09 'Recycle Week')

ORGANISE A WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Encouraging pupils and staff to walk, bike, or use public transport instead of driving can reduce emissions and improve local air quality. A Walk to School Week helps raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of active travel.

Coordinate as part of TFL 'Travel for Life' initiative.

