



East Prescott Road Nursery School
Climate Change & Sustainability Policy
2026

Approved by full governing body on 12th May 2026
Review period: 3 years

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Policy

This Policy sets out our commitment to a proactive stance on climate change and fostering sustainability. This policy is in alignment with the Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2022). We aim to embed sustainable practices within our educational framework, diminish our carbon footprint, and educate our children on the pressing issue of climate change throughout all key stages, especially within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

1.2 Legislative and Regulatory Framework

This policy is informed by several key documents and frameworks including:

- The DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2022)
- The Climate Change Act (2008) and the UK Government's ambitious target of achieving Net Zero by 2050
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)

2. Vision and Commitment

At East Prescot Road Nursery School, we are committed to:

- Integrating sustainability comprehensively across both our curriculum and day-to-day operations
- Reducing our ecological footprint through energy-efficient practices and minimise waste.
- Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to develop into informed and responsible citizens who are aware of climate issues

3. Leadership and Responsibility

3.1 Role of the Sustainability Lead

The Sustainability Lead holds the responsibility for:

- Coordinating and overseeing sustainability initiatives throughout the school
- Supporting all staff members in embedding climate education within the curriculum
- Monitoring, measuring, and reporting on the progress made towards meeting environmental targets

3.2 Roles of School Leadership and Governors

The Headteacher, alongside the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), will ensure the integration of sustainability into the broader school improvement strategies and planning processes. Furthermore, the Governing Body shall provide oversight for the effective implementation of this policy and hold the school accountable for its sustainability commitments.

3.3 Staff Responsibilities

All staff members are expected to actively incorporate environmental education within their teaching practices. Support staff will be encouraged to play an active role in promoting sustainable operations within the school, focusing on waste reduction and energy conservation.

4. Embedding Climate Education in the Curriculum

4.1 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Within the EYFS, we will initiate sustainability education through:

- Outdoor learning experiences and nature-based activities which instil a sense of connection with the environment
- Age-appropriate storybooks and discussions that foster an understanding of environmental care, including topics such as recycling and wildlife preservation
- Simple, engaging, and hands-on experiences which include plant growth and composting, enabling children to understand the natural cycle of life

5. Sustainable School Operations

5.1 Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction

To minimise energy consumption, we will:

- Encourage responsible usage of lighting, heating, and ICT equipment to enhance energy efficiency throughout the school environment
- Investigate the integration of renewable energy sources wherever feasible, ensuring an investment in sustainable futures
- Conduct regular energy audits to ascertain usage patterns

5.2 Waste Management and Recycling

We shall implement a whole school approach to a recycling programme that aligns with local authority waste management strategies. This initiative will focus on:

- Reducing the use of single-use plastics and promoting the adoption of reusable materials
- Fostering a practical understanding of waste management among pupils

5.3 Sustainable Procurement

We will prioritise:

- Engagement with environmentally friendly and ethical suppliers to enhance our commitments to sustainability
- The sourcing of sustainable and eco-friendly resources for learning activities, including materials used in EYFS play.

5.4 Outdoor Learning and Biodiversity

Our aim is to expand green spaces, which will include:

- Gardens and areas that are friendly to wildlife and support biodiversity

- Initiatives that promote planting and biodiversity projects
- Encouragement of active travel schemes to reduce carbon emissions from school journeys, supporting the health of our children and the environment alike

6. Pupil and Community Engagement

6.1 Partnerships and Community Involvement

We recognise the importance of working collaboratively. Therefore, we shall actively engage with:

- Local organisations and environmental charities to enhance our sustainability initiatives
- Parents and carers through various engagement activities that involve them in our sustainability efforts

7. Review and Policy Updates

This policy will be reviewed every three years, managed by the Sustainability Lead and the Senior Leadership Team. Such assessments will ensure that updates reflect any new legislation, DfE guidance, as well as school priorities to ensure continued progress on our sustainability journey.

8. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Considerations

We acknowledge that climate change has a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged communities. Our strategies to educate and take action on climate change will be inclusive and accessible to all pupils. We are committed to ensuring that our sustainability efforts are embedded in an equitable manner that benefits every member of our school community.

By adopting these commitments, we aim to raise a generation of climate-conscious individuals dedicated to fostering a sustainable future.