



A loving family in a unique environment



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Sustainability Team:	
Headteacher:	Nicky Steels
Chair of Governors:	Andrew Callaway
Forest School & Outdoor Education Lead/ Pupil Voice Lead:	Sarah Kendall
School Business Manager /Sustainability Lead:	Jonathan Holdsworth
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Contents:

1. Overview: Who we are and why we need a Climate Action Plan
2. Our Sustainability Team & Climate Action Vision
3. Our Climate Action Achievements & Objectives
4. Monitoring & Evaluation
5. Support & Resources

1. Overview: Who we are and why we need a Climate Action Plan:



Patterdale CofE School is a small, remote, rural school located in the very heart of the Lake District National Park at the southern tip of Ullswater. Our school is firmly rooted in the mountains amongst which it rests and enjoys a close relationship with its surroundings, and this is reflected in our school motto *'A loving family in a unique environment'*;

in our school vision 'Lifting our eyes to the hills, we are a happy school filled with love for our place and all people. We recognise and nurture the uniqueness of everyone';

and in our school aims which state that our children should be *'...confident in their role in the community near and far; learning how to look after their environment local and global'*.

Our key goal is to prepare children for their futures, and we want to make that future as positive as possible. An understanding of, and respect for, the natural world is therefore at the core of our ethos and we ground our children in nature through outdoor learning, helped greatly by the school's ideal location. We are fortunate to have a 'Wild Area' of woodland for the children to explore, a pond area, a greenhouse and an allotment; as well as an easily accessible rivers, mountains and lake. Our children enjoy Forest School

lessons every week, and our after-school *Forest School* and *Gardening* clubs are very popular; whilst learning all about our planet is embedded in Science and Geography curriculum topics such as ‘*Living things and their Habitats*’, ‘*Hot & Cold Locations*’ and ‘*Seasonal Changes*’. Our KS2/Forest School teacher is also currently developing a ‘*Forest School Outdoor Learning & Environmental Study*’ pack which will focus even more closely on climate change education.

The school has made great recent strides in reducing its carbon footprint by developing its use of renewable energy, reducing energy consumption and improving its food and recycling practices. However, given the scale and speed of the global climate crisis, its impact on children’s mental health and wellbeing, and the need to ensure children have the knowledge and skills for life in an ever-changing world, we all need to do more. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) is fundamental to our overall school development plan and is one of our strategic governance goals. It will be reviewed regularly and will help us consider environmental impact in our actions – whether smaller, everyday decisions or larger, long-term ones.

By embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, curriculum and daily practices, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference. We believe that it is our responsibility to “**Think Global; Act Local**” and this CAP will set out how we currently put this into practice as well as setting out our plans to better meet the four key CAP areas set out by the DfE.

2. Our Sustainability Team & Climate Action Vision

The DfE’s [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy \(2023\)](#) requires all schools to nominate a **Sustainability Lead (SL)** and create a **Climate Action Plan (CAP)** to help guide efforts to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability in education.

Our CAP has been developed by Patterdale CofE School’s **Sustainability Team**, comprising:

- **Headteacher** - Nicky Steels
- **Chair of Governors** - Andrew Callaway
- **KS2/Forest School Teacher & Pupil Voice Lead** - Sarah Kendall
- **Sustainability Lead & School Business Manager** - Jonathan Holdsworth
- **Pupil Voice** - Pupils will be able to feed views/comments in to the team through class climate discussions with teachers.

The Sustainability Team’s focus is on the four key areas set out by the DfE:

1. **Decarbonisation:** Reducing emissions from school buildings and involving pupils in the transition to net zero.
2. **Climate education:** Preparing pupils for a world affected by climate change through learning and practical experience.

3. **Resilience:** Focusing on adapting school buildings, grounds and processes for the impacts of climate change – such as overheating or flooding.
4. **Nature:** Improving the environment and enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality, and increasing access to nature in schools.

These four key areas have helped us to create a vision statement:

‘To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership’.

As well as helping us to map out the key achievable objectives set out in the next section.

3. Our Climate Action Achievements & Objectives

Key: **NS** Nicky Steels (Headteacher); **SK** Sarah Kendall (KS2 & Forest School teacher);
JH Jonathan Holdsworth (School Business Manager SBM)

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading task)	Purpose & Impact	Status
General	Appoint Sustainability Lead (NS/JH)	To lead, implement change and monitor progress	Done
	Form a Sustainability Team (JH)	Leadership/ Implementation	Done
	Develop and implement a school Climate Action Plan (JH)	To plan, execute and monitor our efforts to reduce environmental impact & promote sustainability in education	Done
	Conduct pupil climate action survey (NS/JH)	Understanding our context to help shape our CAP	To do in January 2026
Decarbonisation 1) Energy: Implement strategies to lower energy consumption and reduce waste; improve resource efficiency through better management of materials and energy resources	LED lighting installed across school (JH)	Energy: Reduced energy use and costs	Done July 23
	PV phase 1 - 26 panels installed (JH)	Energy: Energy generation for school and grid	Done Apr 24
	Professional whole-school Energy Audit (JH)	Energy: Recommendations prioritised, key info for CAP	Done Aug 24
	PV phase 2 - 24 more panels installed (JH)	Energy: Energy generation for school and grid	Done Apr 25
	Air Source Heat Pump installed to heat water for underfloor heating (JH)	Energy: Reduced energy use	Done July 25
	Create a ‘Tap Team’ and ‘Switch Squad’ made up of pupils and a teacher, incl. ‘why is this light on’ stickers (SK)	Energy: To minimise electric & water waste on site	Done Nov 25

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading)	Purpose & Impact	Status
<p>Decarbonisation (cont'd)</p> <p>2) Transport: Improve air quality and reduce congestion and pollution by increasing number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school; by lobbying the local council for traffic calming measures; and by minimising the use of the school minibus</p> <p>3) Waste & Recycling: Encourage sustainable procurement practices to minimise environmental harm and promote eco-friendly practices</p> <p>Influence behaviour changes and create a positive culture around reducing waste and overconsumption of resources by all stakeholders</p> <p>Develop knowledge around waste and resource overconsumption and how they link to the climate and ecological emergency through our curriculum and information for parents</p>	Encourage staff to minimise energy & water use (kettle filling, lights, heating etc) (NS/JH)	Energy: To minimise electric & water waste on site	Ongoing
	Encourage pupils and families to adopt energy saving practices at home (NS/JH)	Energy: To minimise electric & water waste off site	Ongoing
	Council's 'Safer Roads' campaign installed speed indicator signs to reduce traffic speed to 20mph on A592 outside school. (JH)	Transport: Reduce energy use/ improve environment	Done Nov 23
	Speed limit officially reduced to 20mph through Glenridding and Patterdale. (NS/JH)	Transport: Reduce energy use/ improve environment	Done Sept 25
	School joined 'WOW - The walk to school challenge from Living Streets to encourage families to get more exercise and reduce vehicle use. (NS)	Transport: Reduce energy use/ improve environment/create a positive culture and behaviour change around transport use	Done Aug 24
	Bike racks added to school car park to encourage cycling to school (JH)		
	Improve composting, add green cone hot waste composter & extra compost bins. All cooked and non-cooked food now composted along with leaf and other natural debris (JH)	Waste & Recycling: Creating a positive culture around reducing waste	Done April 25
	Reduce waste/single use plastics through sustainable procurement practices (NS/school cooks)	Waste & Recycling: Minimise environmental harm by promoting eco-friendly practices	Ongoing
	Reduce paper use by improving office practices (cloud storage etc) (NS/SBMs)		Ongoing
	Encourage staff & pupils to observe improved recycling/composting practices (NS/JH)	Waste & Recycling: Creating a positive culture around reducing waste and overconsumption	Ongoing
	Encourage pupils and families to adopt similar recycling/composting practices at home (NS/SK)		Ongoing
	Add paper recycling bins to each classroom (NS)	Waste & Recycling: Creating a positive culture around reducing waste.	Done Sept 24
	Enrol on to Biffa's Baa-ttery Campaign to recycle batteries for whole community in school (JH)		Done April 25
Encourage responsible water use – staff & pupils (NS/SK)		Ongoing	

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading)	Purpose & Impact	Status
Decarbonisation (cont'd)	Add water butt & rainwater converter to PE shed. Water used for watering plants, (JH)	Waste & Recycling: Reducing water use/waste	Done July 24
	Refillable water bottles used by all pupils (NS)	Waste & Recycling: Minimising waste	Ongoing
	Change from plastic to glass milk bottles (NS)	through reducing use of single use plastics	Done Sept 25
	All IT Equipment recycled through System IT (JH)		Ongoing
	Plastic/paper/glass/metal/batteries/printer cartridges all now recycled (JH)	Waste & Recycling: Minimising waste	Ongoing
	All white board pens and pupil's pens now refillable (NS)		Ongoing
	Pre - loved uniform available to all.		Ongoing
	Litter picking & awareness strategy (NS/SK)	Waste & Recycling: Creating a positive culture around reducing waste	To set up
Climate Education 1) Embed climate education across the curriculum 2) Engage pupils in climate change discussions and hands-on sustainability projects 3) Engage community	Forest School lessons every week for all children (SK)		Ongoing
	Run forest schools for other schools and home school groups and forest school nursery and FS holiday club – become a Forest School hub (NS/SK)	Embed climate education across the curriculum / Engage pupils / Engage community	
	Curriculum - Science topics: Animals including humans (Y2); Living things and their habitats (Y2) (repeated in both Key Stages); Seasonal changes (Y1) (NS)		Ongoing
	Curriculum - Geography topics: Hot & cold locations; Rivers. (Climate change is also touched on in other topics) (NS)		Ongoing
	After school clubs: forest & gardening (SK)		Ongoing
	Assemblies with climate change focus (NS)		Ongoing
	Pupil Voice discussions (SK)	Engage pupils in climate change discussions	Ongoing
	Set up weather station & start weather diary (record one weather pic every day on Facebook) (SK)	Engage pupils through hands-on sustainability projects	To do
	Litter picking & awareness strategy (NS)		

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading)	Purpose & Impact	Status
Climate Education (cont'd)	Regular visit to community Garden at Beaumont's farm: (no dig garden to keep mycelium intact) (NS)	Engage pupils/community through hands-on sustainability projects	Ongoing
	School visits to sustainability projects Eg: Hartsop hydro project / Ullswater Catchment Management tree planting / Rebanks Farm /community input		Ongoing
	Improve wild area for Forest School education to reduce negative env impact (eg vary working areas so not overly using certain area; responsible learning)		Ongoing
Resilience 1) Adapt/maintain school premises, systems, equipment, policies, procedures & teaching to face the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and overheating, and to enhance business continuity	Reduce the risk of school closures and disruption to lessons through proper maintenance of building and health and safety walks by Resource Committee/SBM (JH/NS)	Adapt school premises to face the impacts of climate change	Ongoing
	Annual review of building and grounds by SBM and Resources governors to ensure school site will cope with more extreme weather (JH/NS/Govs)	Adapt school premises: Maintain school premises to ensure readiness for impacts of climate change	Ongoing (every April)
	Control shade & air flow by maintaining classroom blinds & windows, and using air purifiers (JH/NS)	Adapt school premises: Business continuity	KS2 blinds need replacing
	Hub cupboard with UPS battery back-up set up as resilience room with phone/internet/power for up to 30mins if power cut off (JH/NS)		Done July 2025
	CloudVoice phone system purchased so that phones can be plugged in anywhere with power/internet (JH)	Increased cyber security	Done May 2023
	School moved to cloud-based systems: All school files systems now on cloud, ensuring business continuity (seamless learning during disruptions like power outages), enhances data security & recovery through provider expertise and backups, improves accessibility & flexibility for remote learning, reduces IT costs & workload (no server upkeep, automatic updates), and fosters collaboration & efficiency for staff and students, making education more adaptable and secure (JH/NS)	Improves remote education Adapt school systems to increase resilience against power cuts/climate change	Done July 2025
	Protect staff and students from the risks of extreme weather with Sun shelter (permanent and pop-up gazebos) (NS)	Adapt school premises to face the impacts of overheating	Done
	Grow plants up school walls to help cool building (SK)		To do
	Update Evacuation procedures and policy annually (JH) + Regularly review of Flood Policy & Procedures and action points met /grant funding sought if possible (JH)	Adapt school procedures/policies: to face impacts of climate change	Ongoing

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading)	Purpose & Impact	Status
Resilience (cont'd) 2) Boost personal resilience & gain useful skills through growing our own fruit and vegetables	Cold/snowy weather equipment in stock: Snow shovels; full salt bin (SBM)	Adapt/maintain school equipment to face impacts of climate change	Ongoing
	Remote Learning strategy in place (NS)	Adapt teaching to face impacts of climate change	Ongoing
	Growing more fruit and veg (Community allotment at farm; school allotment and raised beds) (NS/SK)	Boost personal resilience & Gain Useful Skills	Ongoing
	Regularly review school's Emergency Plan – links with CFRS or farmers for sand bags? Pumps? (JH)	Maintain school procedures/boost resilience to enhance business continuity	Ongoing
	Research into becoming a 'Food for Life' school – a scheme run by the Soil Association that encourages agricultural sustainability	Boost resilience & gain useful skills	To do in 2026
Nature 1) Increase biodiversity within our footprint	Continue to develop outdoor learning areas & increase biodiversity (SK)	Increase biodiversity & engage with nature through planting and wilding	Ongoing
	Annual entry into Cumbria in Bloom schools competition (Gold award in 2025!) (SK)		Ongoing
	Develop wildlife corridor from car park down southern wall (hedges/roses/mixed species hazels/rowan/hawthorn/crab apples etc) (SK)		Ongoing
	Living roof built on our chicken shed; bird/squirrel/hedgehog boxes into Wild Area; Bug hotel in greenhouse area (SK)		Done July 2024
	Raised beds/allotment: Companion planting amongst food produce (marigolds for pollination; nasturtiums as natural pest deterrent etc). Plant peas and beans to boost nitrogen in soil; horse manure from local farms used in allotment (SK)		Ongoing
	Raise money for our forest & gardening activities by making and selling bird/hedgehog boxes and seeds through the community and the Rheged enterprise project (40 Farms market) – sell seedlings next year too (SK)		Ongoing
	Days out with Danny & Maddie from Ullswater Catchment Management to plant hedgerows and trees (NS)		Ongoing
	Create areas of non-strimmed grass to allow natural development (SK)		To do in 2026
	Refurb beds to make it all year-round growing facility (SK)		To do in 2026
	Informative talks from local conservationists (eg Squirrel man) (NS)		Ongoing

Focus & Strategic Objective/s	Objective (& person leading)	Purpose & Impact	Status
Nature (cont'd) 2) Engage with nature: Connecting students with the environment and fostering stewardship 3) Apply for funding to help us achieve goals	Greenhouse & allotment fruit, veg and wildflowers growing. Cucumbers, tomatoes & lettuce used in school kitchen (SK)	Increase biodiversity & engage with nature + Save money + Reduce waste + Increase resilience	Ongoing
	Community garden at Beaumont's farm: no dig garden to keep mycelium intact (NS)		Ongoing
	Farm visits (eg Rebanks Racy Ghyll Farm) (NS)		Ongoing
	Get involved with nature/conservation projects (eg: Gods Good Acre) (NS)		Ongoing
	Dead hedge / Plant more trees (SK)		Ongoing
	Set up an Eco Club 'The Wild Things' with pupil representatives that come up with ideas, take them back to class and implement them with fellow pupils. They would feed back to Sustainability Team through half termly meeting with class teacher (NS/SK)	Engage & empower pupils	To do in 2026
	Funding applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happy by Nature Fund – up to £10k to transform outdoor spaces (result pending) Earnest Cook Trust – £500 essentials grant (update: awarded in Dec 25) 	Apply for funding to help us achieve goals	Ongoing

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

To ensure that the CAP remains relevant and effective, Patterdale CofE School will:

- **Review the plan** annually in September, led by the Sustainability Lead.
- **Monitor progress** through simple tracking of key actions (eg: energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement).
- **Gather feedback** from pupils and staff through informal discussions.
- **Update the plan** regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- **Share updates** with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

5. Support & Resources

In addition to the resources listed below, we can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share ideas/best practices. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

[DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#)

[DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance](#)

[Let's Go Zero Campaign](#)

[National Education Nature Park](#)