

St Marychurch Pre-school

Climate Action Plan

Aim of the Climate Action Plan

St Marychurch Pre-school is committed to embedding sustainability across the curriculum, daily operations, and community engagement. This plan outlines how we will reduce our environmental impact while teaching children to care for the natural world, in line with:

- **EYFS 2025** – Understanding the World, safeguarding, welfare, and healthy practices
- **Ofsted EIF 2025** – Evaluation of sustainability in curriculum and operations
- **DfE Sustainability Strategy** – Requirement for a sustainability lead and climate action plan
- **UK environmental legislation** – Waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, and sustainable procurement

St Marychurch Pre School sustainability Lead: **Emma Hayes**

Aligned with EYFS 2025, Ofsted EIF 2025, and the DfE Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy

Climate Action Priorities

Priority Area	Goal	Linked Legislation
Energy Reduction	Reduce energy use through behaviour change and efficient equipment	UK Energy Efficiency Standards, Ofsted EIF
Waste Reduction & Recycling	Increase recycling and reduce waste sent to landfill	UK Waste Regulations
Water Conservation	Reduce water waste and reuse water safely	UK Water Efficiency Standards
Sustainable Travel	Promote walking and low-carbon travel	DfE Sustainability Strategy
Biodiversity & Nature Education	Strengthen children's connection to nature	EYFS 2025 Understanding the World
Sustainable Procurement	Buy local, low-carbon, and eco-friendly resources	UK Procurement & Carbon Footprint Guidance

Action Plan continued...

Energy Reduction

Objectives

- Reduce electricity use by 10% over 12 months.
- Ensure all staff model energy-saving behaviours.

Actions

- Switch off lights, heaters, and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug all equipment at the end of each day.
- Use natural light and ventilation wherever possible.
- Conduct a termly “Energy Walk” to identify waste (staff & children).

Waste Reduction & Recycling

Objectives

- Reduce general waste by 20% by increasing recycling and composting.
- Embed recycling into children’s daily routines.

Actions

- Maintain and expand the recycling area for children.
- Use parent-donated recyclables for art and play.
- Compost all suitable food waste.
- Avoid food as play material unless it is grown onsite or donated.
- Reuse water from play for plants and cleaning outdoor areas.
- Share recycling tips with families.

Water Conservation

Objectives

- Reduce water use by 10% over 12 months.
- Teach children about water as a precious resource.

Actions

- Use rainwater butts for gardening and outdoor play.
- Recycle water from play trays for plant watering.
- Teach water-saving games and role play.
- Report leaks immediately to the Sustainability Lead.

Action Plan continued...

Sustainable Travel

Objectives

- Increase the number of families walking to Pre School.
- Reduce car related emissions around the setting.

Actions

- Promote “Walk to Pre School Wednesdays”.
- Display posters encouraging active travel.
- Share safe walking routes with families.
- Include travel questions in parent surveys.

Biodiversity, Gardening & Nature Education

Objectives

- Strengthen children’s understanding of the natural world.
- Increase biodiversity in the outdoor area.

Actions

- Maintain vegetable beds and herb planters.
- Grow produce for snack time and messy play.
- Organise nature walks and local ecosystem exploration.
- Create bug hotels, bird feeders, and wildflower patches.
- Use natural materials (wood, stone, sand) in daily play.
- Share books, songs, and stories about nature and climate.

Sustainable Procurement

Objectives

- Reduce carbon footprint through responsible purchasing.
- Support local suppliers.

Actions

- Buy local produce and materials where possible.
- Prioritise eco-friendly, durable, and recycled resources.
- Avoid single use plastics.
- Consider carbon footprint in all procurement decisions.

Action Plan continued...

Curriculum Integration (EYFS)

Sustainability will be woven through all areas of learning:

Understanding the World

- Food cycle: planting → growing → harvesting → cooking
- Weather, seasons, and climate awareness
- Recycling and caring for the planet

Communication & Language

- Vocabulary: environment, recycle, conserve, nature, climate
- Storytelling and discussions about nature

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Caring for living things
- Working together in gardening and recycling

Physical Development

- Outdoor exploration, digging, watering, planting

Expressive Arts & Design

- Using natural and recycled materials
- Nature inspired art

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must:

- Model sustainable behaviour daily.
- Integrate sustainability into play and routines.
- Encourage children to participate in gardening, recycling, and water-saving.
- Talk to children about why we protect the planet.
- Share sustainability messages with parents.
- Report issues, leaks, energy waste, missed recycling. Contribute to the annual review.

Parent & Community Engagement

- Share sustainability tips in newsletters.
- Encourage recycling and gardening at home and donate raffle prizes, toys and unwanted clothing for re-sale.
- Invite families to contribute natural or recycled materials.

Action Plan continued...

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

Conducted termly to evaluate:

- Energy and water usage
- Waste reduction
- Biodiversity improvements
- Curriculum impact on children's understanding
- Daily staff safety checklist
- Sustainability Lead to report to committee termly
- Weekly recycling checks

Annual Review

- Led by Sustainability Lead (Emma Hayes)
- Report to Committee
- Update plan based on legislation, Ofsted guidance, and best practice

Governance & Accountability

The Committee oversees:

- Compliance with legislation
- Progress against targets
- Resource allocation
- Continuous improvement

This Action plan is reviewed annually or earlier if legislation, Ofsted requirements, or best practice guidance changes. Impact assessments are conducted regularly to evaluate the settings' environmental footprint. The Committees oversight ensures accountability and continuous improvement.

Signed _____ Position Chairperson Dated _____

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.