



# Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

## Sustainability Policy

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Responsibility:	Sustainability Lead
Date approved by Governing Body:	November 2026
Governor signature:	Rebecca Emson (Chair)
Review date:	November 2026

**Harrietsham Church of England Primary School**  
**Sustainability Policy**

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## ***'Nurtured We Flourish'***

### **School Context:**

#### **Harrietsham CEP Vision Statement**

*We are a warm, welcoming, and inclusive school rooted in our rural community. Like the mustard seed we grew from tiny beginnings and our branches are now spread wide –providing support and taking our values beyond the school gates. All those in our community feel safe and nurtured - able to flourish and grow academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically to achieve their full God-given potential.*

### **“Nurtured we flourish”**

We are a nurturing school. As such we believe in, and follow, **The Six Principles of Nurture** in all of our practice.

1. Children’s learning is understood developmentally.
2. The classroom offers a safe base.
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.
4. Language is a vital means of communication.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. The importance of transition in children’s lives.

#### **Our Values**

The roots of our vision are in the parable of the Mustard Seed.

*‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches’.*

***Matthew 13 31-32***

In order to grow and reach our potential, everything that we do in school is driven by our vision and underpinned by our core Christian values of:

### ***Love, Fellowship and Forgiveness***

## **Introduction:**

At Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, we recognise our responsibility to care for the environment and to prepare our pupils to become thoughtful, responsible and active global citizens. As a primary school, we have a unique opportunity to model positive behaviours and to nurture our children to have a lifelong respect for the natural world. By integrating sustainability into our daily routines, teaching, and decision-making, we not only safeguard our school community and local environment, but we also contribute to the wider effort to address climate change and protect future generations.

This policy sets out our commitment to sustainability, guiding our actions in areas such as energy use, waste management, travel, food, and learning. It reflects our belief that even small changes, when adopted consistently, can make a meaningful difference.

**Our Sustainability Leader is Miss Angharad Roberts.**

## **Aims:**

The Department for Education launched their [Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy](#) in 2022 to positively impact, influence and inspire communities within the education sector, focusing on environmental sustainability and enhancing children's knowledge and understanding. This is the guiding principle behind our work on sustainability.

The aim of our Sustainability Policy is to embed our school rule of being *respectful* into all aspects of environmental stewardship and community life. We are committed to making our school an eco-friendly, sustainably conscious community where children develop awareness, understanding, and respect for the environments in which they live.

Through this policy, we seek to enable pupils to act as positive citizens, learning not only about sustainability, but also having a voice in deciding the priorities for our school's actions.

We encourage care for oneself by promoting health and well-being; care for each other by fostering connections across cultures, distances, and generations; and care for the environment at both a local and global level. Above all, we aim to empower our children to be courageous advocates who champion sustainability within the wider community and beyond.

To enable this, we are working with the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign ([UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#)), Greener Kent Schools (initiatives and programs that support environmental sustainability in Kent schools), and Eco-Schools ([Home - Eco Schools](#)).

We aim to monitor, measure and reduce the environmental impact of the following areas:

1. Waste - Including litter, recycling, water monitoring etc.
2. Transport - Promoting active forms of travel and education for this.
3. Food – Learning how to grow food and understanding food miles.
4. Climate Education – Including inviting in visitors, education through our Personal Development curriculum and explicit teaching of sustainability.
5. Energy – Through monitoring and reducing usage.

**All of these areas are outlined in our Climate Action Plan (Appendix A).**

## The National Curriculum

Sustainability is embedded within the National Curriculum, supporting pupils' learning across a range of subjects and preparing them to contribute positively to society.

- Through Science, children develop an understanding of the natural world, the impact of human activity, and the importance of caring for living things and their habitats.
- Geography enables pupils to explore local and global environments, consider the use of natural resources, and reflects on the interconnectedness of communities worldwide.
- Our PSHE / Lifeskills curriculum fosters respect, responsibility, and informed decision-making about health, well-being, and ethical choices.

Across the curriculum, children are encouraged to think critically, act responsibly, and apply their learning to real-world contexts, helping them to recognise their role as active citizens and to make informed choices that promote a more sustainable future.

These opportunities directly reflect our school values of *love* and *fellowship*, as children learn to care for themselves, others, and the world around them, and they also embody our rule of being *respectful* in how they treat people, places, and the planet.

Our Sustainability Leader has a clear overview of what needs to be covered for each year group through our Personal Development curriculum.

## Our Curriculum

Sustainability is a key strand of our Personal Development curriculum.

	<b>Harrietsham Church of England Primary School</b> <b>Personal Development Overview</b>	
<b>Sustainability</b>		

Sustainability							
	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<b>Waste</b>	Waste investigators – activity 3	Litter pick	Waste investigators – activity 5	Recycling and composting Reduce, reuse, recycle - kapow	How sustainable is our school? - kapow	What is fast fashion and why is it a problem? - kapow	What actions can we take to make the world more sustainable? - kapow
<b>Transport</b>	Different modes of transport – what are they?	Why do we have/need different modes of transport?	How can our journey to school help the environment? - kapow	Community rail network – Daffnee Green	Pollution patrol – interactive content	Pollution patrol – pollution investigation	Climate detective kids - ESA
<b>Food</b>	Where does food come from? - learning how we can grow food	Food bank How can we look after a garden? - kapow	Growing fruit	Growing vegetables	Food miles	Prepare a healthy snack: The fruits of our labour	Prepare a healthy meal: The fruits of our labour
<b>Climate education</b>	How can we welcome animals on the school grounds? - kapow	Local		National		Global	
<b>Energy monitoring</b>	My classroom	My school	My village	My county	My country	My world	The future

Through our Personal Development curriculum, children will have the opportunity to become sustainability champions and to learn about how their actions can influence not only the local environment, but also the global environment.

## ***'Nurtured We Flourish'***

We have developed our curriculum to focus on 5 main points:

- Waste
- Transport
- Food
- Climate Education
- Energy Monitoring

### **Waste**

We will teach our community to respect our surroundings and to ensure our environments are set up to allow our children to independently make sustainable choices.

- We will have clearly labelled bins throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.
- We will make sure that there are enough rubbish bins to keep our school site clean and tidy.
- We will reduce paper waste by printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- We will have scrap-paper drawers to ensure paper can be reused.
- Staff will be encouraged to consider what materials can be reused.
- We will encourage pupils to bring reusable water bottles into school rather than using disposable single-use plastics.
- We will encourage children to turn off taps when not in use.
- We will display posters reminding pupils of the importance of turning off taps and saving water.
- We will have a Swap Shop for preowned book bags, school and PE uniforms etc.
- Damaged items will be repaired whenever possible.

Our children will explore different forms of waste and how they can impact the environment. Our children will take part in active investigations and explore how they can personally make a difference.

During their time at Harrietsham they will take part in:

- Litter picking.
- Recycling education.
- Exploring the sustainability of our school.
- Exploring what fast fashion is.
- Exploring what action we can take to make the world more sustainable.

### **Transport**

To successfully consider the impact of transport on the environment our school will ensure we:

- Encourage our children to walk, scoot or bike to school.
- Offer cycle safety lessons for pupils in Year 4 onwards.
- Audit our school's carbon footprint.
- Encourage staff to lift share to off-site training wherever possible to reduce car use.

## ***'Nurtured We Flourish'***

Our children will experience and be exposed to different forms of transport and how they can impact the environment.

During their time at Harrietsham they will take part in:

- Transport education.
- Community rail network activities.
- Pollution Patrol investigations.
- Climate Detectives activities.

## **Food**

To successfully consider the impact of food production and waste on the environment our school will ensure we:

- Participate in 'Meat-free Mondays' to reduce high-carbon food in our menus.
- Promote pupils' understanding of food and where it comes from.
- Ensure that food waste is properly recycled.

Our children will learn about how our food can have a large impact on the environment.

During their time at Harrietsham they will take part in:

- Food education about where food comes from.
- Food education about how we can look after a garden.
- The opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables.
- Education about the impact of food miles and food production.

## **Climate Education**

Our children will have the opportunity to learn more about the current climate situation and how their actions can influence what happens to the environment.

During their time at Harrietsham they will take part in:

- Identifying and protecting existing natural habitats on the school site, and using them as an opportunity to learn about the natural world.
- Environmental awareness days.
- Visits from charities or companies who aid in supporting schools and other countries to become sustainable e.g. water aid, Fairtrade etc.
- An optional Eco Warriors club to help pupils learn about nature outside of the curriculum.

## **Energy Monitoring**

To successfully monitor our energy use at school we will:

- Switch off lights and appliances when they're not in use.

## ***'Nurtured We Flourish'***

- Display information around the school to help pupils understand the importance of switching off appliances and saving energy.
- Audit the amount of energy we use to see where we could reduce our usage.
- Explore the cost of using more renewable energy sources such as solar panels.
- Take part in a switch-off campaign to encourage the children to think carefully about their energy use.

The children will have the opportunity to discuss how we might successfully monitor our personal energy use, our school community's energy use and going on to consider our usage globally and in the future.

### **Links with other Policies**

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Curriculum Policy

### **Action Plan**

A climate action plan has been designed to develop sustainability throughout the school. This will be linked to the Strategic and School Development Plan. (See Appendix A).

### **Climate Action Advisor**

The school is supported by Felicity Brambling- Wells from Let's Go Zero 2030 [Felicity.Brambling-Wells@letsgozero.org](mailto:Felicity.Brambling-Wells@letsgozero.org).

## Appendix A – Climate Action Plan

Climate action plan – Harrietsham C of E Primary school				
<b>Waste</b>				
Action	Time frame	Stakeholders	SIP link	Progress tracker
Students to take part in a litter survey	Start: Review:	Sustainability lead Eco Warriors	Quality of education - Carefully planned programme of personal development – active citizens of society	
Creation of water butts	Start: 17 <sup>th</sup> March Review:	Forest school lead		1 now on school site
Utilise eco warriors to create an energy monitoring and waste team	Start: Review:	Sustainability lead, Eco Warriors		
Classes to create eco pledges to adhere to in order to reduce waste	Start: Review:	Sustainability lead, Eco Warriors, Class teachers, children		Aim to start Sept. 2025
<b>Transport</b>				
Action	Time frame	Stakeholders	SIP link	Progress tracker
Promote active travel on the school run	Start: Review:	SLT, children, parents, Sustainability lead	Quality of education - Carefully planned programme of personal development – active citizens of society	Aim to start Sept 2025
<b>Food</b>				
Action	Time frame	Stakeholders	SIP link	Progress tracker
Sustainable growing of fruit and vegetables	Start: Review:	Forest school lead, sustainability lead, children	Quality of Education - School environment is carefully considered so that every opportunity is taken to enrich the learning offer for our children	Forest School now fenced in to allow for more permanent features
<b>Climate education</b>				
Action	Time frame	Stakeholders	SIP link	Progress tracker
Invite visitors in to speak about different sustainability sections e.g. Water Aid, Fairtrade etc.	Start: Review:	Staff members, children, sustainability lead	Quality of education - Carefully planned programme of personal development – active citizens of society	Pre-plan for the next academic year
Conduct a curriculum audit of sustainability in the curriculum	Start: 29 <sup>th</sup> April Review:	Sustainability lead, SLT		Audit started by Sustain. lead
Create opportunities for explicit teaching of sustainability in the curriculum	Start: 29 <sup>th</sup> April Review:	Sustainability lead, SLT, class teachers, children	- Well prepared for the future	Resources have begun to be compiled by Sustain lead.
<b>Energy monitoring</b>				
Action	Time frame	Stakeholders	SIP link	Progress tracker
Explore the introduction of energy monitoring for the school e.g. Energy Sparks	Start: Review:	SLT, Sustainability lead, SBL	- School environment is carefully considered	Costs being investigated by SBL
Take part in a switch-off campaign	Start: Review:	Whole school		
Use of solar panels for renewable energy	Start: SBL investigating – April 2025 Review:	SLT, SBL		Costs being investigated by SBL