



# Whitegate CofE Primary School

## 2025-26 Climate Action Plan

Action	Means	Success Criteria	Monitoring	Time Scale
<b>Calculate our school's carbon footprint using <a href="#">Count Your Carbon</a></b>  This free digital tool allows us to calculate the carbon footprint for our school, giving us a baseline against which to measure progress, year on year	Aligned with the Department for Education's <a href="#">Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy</a> , Count Your Carbon offers tools and guidance to help educational settings calculate their carbon footprint, reviewing your data and producing a report which will equip you with the information you need to help inform your Climate Action Plan.	Carbon footprint measured and informs future actions.	SBM and SMO to complete. Monitored by the headteacher.	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025.
<b>Set up a sustainability working group.</b>	Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school to collaborate and effect change. Ensure one person has oversight, taking the title of 'Sustainability Lead' and where possible provide non-contact time for this role.	Group established, working collaboratively to bring about change.	Headteacher	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025.
<b>Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency</b>				
<b>Continue to Install LED lighting.</b>	Replace any remaining older lighting fixtures with LEDs and install motion sensors in areas that see only intermittent use. The DfE suggests LED	Whole school fitted with LED lighting	SBM and SMO to complete. Monitored by the headteacher.	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026.

	installation can <a href="#">reduce energy consumption from lighting by over 84%</a>			
<b>Investigate the potential for solar panels.</b>	Work with architects Lancaster Maloney to ascertain if it is viable to add solar panels to the hall roof.	Outcome of investigation submitted to governors for any future plans to be made.	Headteacher	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026.
<b>Take part in a switch off campaign.</b>	Take part in a switch off campaign, e.g. <a href="#">Switch Off Fortnight</a> . Aim for 10% reduction of energy use (the typical amount saved by participating schools). Running campaigns before the holiday period (such as a summer switch-down) can lead to reduced energy use over the holiday period.	'Switch Off Fortnight' successfully run. Children and staff remember to switch off appliances long-term.	Sustainability Group	December 2025.
<b>Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates, share results, and set a target to reduce this.</b>	Ask the children to be involved in daily weigh-ins of food waste as part of their curriculum or eco-club activities to enhance their understanding of the scale of food wastage. Feed findings back to the school caterer and catering staff to make necessary changes to dishes/menu. Share the results with teaching staff, pupils and the wider school community to motivate everyone to reduce their food waste even further.	Food waste decreasing overtime.	Sustainability Group	To be completed by 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026.
<b>Develop our pre-loved uniform shop and extend existing reuse practices.</b>	Evaluate our uniform shop to track how many items are being re-used, and set a target/take steps to increase its uptake e.g. improved communications to the wider school community and putting further systems in	More items of pre-loved uniform being reused.	PTA	To be completed by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026.

	place to receive uniform donations from school leavers.			
<b>Carry out a bin audit to ensure mandatory recycling requirements are being met.</b>	<a href="#">New mandatory waste regulations</a> require all <a href="#">dry recycling</a> and <a href="#">food waste</a> to be separated from general waste. To do this effectively, carry out a bin audit to review location, internal and external capacity, and labelling.	Items correctly separated.	Headteacher	Ongoing.
<b>Reduce travel for educational visits.</b>	When planning our 'One Big Adventures' consider using the local area or activities that are close to Whitegate. Consider using the train or classes combining visits to reduce coaches.	Greater use made of the local area for visits.	Headteacher	Ongoing.
<b>Climate adaptation and resilience</b>				
<b>Install water butts to harvest rainwater.</b>	Capture rainwater to use on plants and grounds around school – and help reduce water flow in heavy downpours whilst saving mains water.	During summer 2026, plants in the school grounds will be watered with rainwater.	SMO working with gardening club.	To be completed by 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026.
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>				
<b>Increase biodiversity to support local wildlife e.g. plant pollinator-friendly plants, put up birdfeeders, bat boxes and 'bug hotels'</b>	Develop outdoor spaces to create a mosaic of habitats and features to provide food, shelter and water for wildlife. Grant funding is often available for this, and make use of the wider community for support and resources.	Gardening club have focused on increasing biodiversity.	Gardening Club Lead	To be completed by August 2026.
<b>Climate Education, Green Skills and Green Careers</b>				

<b>Set up an Eco Club or Eco Council for pupils to lead on sustainability initiatives.</b>	Establish a student Eco-Club or Eco Council. Consider inclusivity and longevity of projects so that as many children as possible can take part throughout their time at school.	Eco-Group established alongside the sustainability group. Children are presenting items in Collective Worship and encouraging participation in initiatives.	Headteacher	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025.
<b>Complete a curriculum audit.</b>	Complete a curriculum audit to understand how and where sustainability currently features in your curriculum as well as where there are gaps. This may focus on topics as a whole or individual lessons across all subject areas. Online resources such as <a href="#">Map The Curriculum</a> may be helpful for this.	Audit completed	SLT	To be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> May to support curriculum planning for 2026-27.