

Climate Action Plan

Name of Education Setting: Strong Close Nursery School



1 year plan Autumn 2026 – Autumn 2027 Helen Jones Headteacher

The ABCs of Climate Action Plans

A Climate Action Plan develops our school for a sustainable future including our buildings, outdoor spaces and curriculum. It's centred around four pillars which help bring about a multitude of wellbeing, learning and environmental benefits for our learners and our community. We are committed to complying with the DfE requirement to move our early years setting towards net zero by 2050. This means reducing our carbon footprint, embedding sustainability in the curriculum, engaging parents in this aim and working with the local community. We are working towards the Government's sustainability aims by:

- Including elements of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015) in our curriculum.
- Spending time outside every day, learning about the weather, seasonal changes, planting, growing etc.
- Engaging parents in their children's sustainability curriculum.
- Working with colleagues to support local community projects.
- We recognise that we have a bigger role to play in the Government's aim to reach net zero by 2050.
- We want to reduce our carbon footprint even more and we will challenge ourselves to improve our sustainability through termly reflection and planning future projects.
- We are always looking for new projects to get involved in within the local community.

As part of the Department for Education net zero aims by 2050, the DfE states that early years providers need to write a climate action plan. DfE states that our climate action plan should cover 4 main areas of provision :

- Adaptation and resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers
- Decarbonisation

Find out more:

letsgozero.org
climateambassadors.org.uk

sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk
educationnaturepark.org.uk



1. Adaptation and Resilience

Which focuses on adjusting to current and future climate impacts like extreme weather to minimize harm and take advantage of new opportunities. Examples include implementing infrastructure projects, adapting planting to climate changes and sustaining nature resources such as water.

Adaptation, Resilience and Water

Current Provision – Roof and guttering are serviced annually to clear drains and avoid flooding. Staff are trained in hot weather guidance which includes closing windows and using black out blinds where sun shines onto the building and opening windows and blinds where there is shade to bring in cool air flow. We teach the children to reduce water wastage by turning off taps because water is a precious resource and clearly defining sinks are for washing and washing hands and water trays are for play. On rainy days we encourage children to catch rainwater using various containers. We have planted hedging and trees with the children, and with and funded by the Big Local Keighley, Community wardens, Trees for Cities and YorgreenCIC. All new wooden play equipment when repaired are now replaced with steel supports that go into the ground for longevity and to avoid wooden supports rotting in the wet ground. Green screens have been installed in grey areas to screen the play areas from the road and reduce air pollution and noise and also to create shade both in the play areas and against the school perimeter-funded by the DfE's Nature Park Education Grant.

Action	Timeframe	Information and costings	Progress
Train the new willow into a tunnel on the lower nature trail and throughout the year to create the structure and shade.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Autumn 2027		
New larger guttering at the back of the building installed to cope with the run off from the large roof and to stop over flow and flooding on the veranda area and into the class rooms and new roof on older building installed. Monitor and report any deficiencies	Start: Autumn 2025 Review: effectiveness and snagging	New roof programme funded and approved by the council in 2024-2025	Snagging completed Spring 2026
Install water butts once the new guttering is in place to conserve water	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Spring 2026	£600-800	
In the spring and summer to re- use water from the water play trays for washing outdoor equipment and watering plants where appropriate, rather than pouring down the sink	Start: Spring 2027 Review: Summer 2027		
Work with the gardener over time to adapt planting to link with climate changes and to provide food both from our allotment and the Community Planters at the side of the school	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Annually		

2. Biodiversity

Creating habitats and adopting practices that will enhance species diversity on the education setting estate and beyond. A better environment for future generations: enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and increasing access to nature, and connection with, nature in and around our education setting.

Nature			
Current Provision Teaching children about the world around them. Our setting is situated in a very green and nature filled environment, which we embrace every day. We have a well organised Forest School and we run a gardening club for all classes during our gardener's weekly visits, which offers the children a rich learning experience particularly in understanding of the world, through science experiments, planting and growing food for our snack and lunches from our allotment, and nurturing seedlings and plants. We have a number of age-related stories about the world we live in, and use these as part of the curriculum for information and stories. Spending time in nature every day; as an outdoor Nursery we believe greatly in free-flow learning, and are fortunate to have nature enriched gardens and walking trails. As a result, children experience the seasons first hand and the growth cycle. We nurture and protect wildlife in our garden and the local community with wild areas and by caring for our local birds and mini beasts. Through play and learning we teach the children about looking after their resources, caring for the wider environment, and their local communities. We nurture caterpillars into butterflies every year and hatch either duck or chicken eggs. We participate in no mow May and have planted hedgerows and trees with the support of the Keighley Big Local. We visit Park Woods, East Riddlesden Hall's gardens and pond and visit Hesketh Farm each year and do litter picking in the community as part of the Great British Spring Clean.			
Action	Timeframe	Information and costings	Progress
To install more bird and butterfly feeders for the children to take part with. See https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-bird-feeder.html And https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/resource/make-a-butterfly-feeder/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw05i4BhDiARIsAB_2wfBzZSUoGdXAMUGKPPnMmp3m-AqrMckyJds_-J3HM_G-dxZ4yXmQT7IaAiTPEALw_wcB	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Summer 2027	£250- £500	
Invest in binoculars, cameras, gloves, wet weather gear and tablets with the digital microscopes to enhance the children's learning about nature	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Feb-March 2027	£500	

3. Climate education and green careers

Ensuring the education, we provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that our teaching staff feel supported to offer this.

Curriculum and Culture

Current Provision We are committed to our children being educated about climate education and given opportunities that will prepare them for learning more about sustainability and life-long learning, including learning more about climate change so we can share the information with the children, utilizing science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning in our curriculum. We regularly monitor and review all areas of our curriculum, policy and practice and use this to support staff training. Our core stories and early years curriculum, starts from the child and develops out into the local and wider world. Children learn about sorting materials and recycling through our labelled bins. Our gardener and Forest school weekly specialists are positive green role models for our children. At our community events children also meet career role models with staff from the Big Local Keighley, Community wardens, Trees for Cities and YorgreenCIC.

Action	Timeframe	Information and costings	Progress
Staff Training day session on Climate Action and our plan	November 2026		
Share information on our climate Action plan and curriculum at parents events including welcome meetings and show rounds, parent cafes and stay and play events.	Start: Autumn 26 Review: Summer 2027		
Sensory friendly area/ sensory garden to investigate and research with the gardener	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Summer 2027	TBC	
Drought resistant apple trees to investigate planting in the Community food area at the side of the school further to parent feedback.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Summer 2027	£100-200	

4. Decarbonisation- Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient

Energy – Buildings Infrastructure, procurement transport and Behaviour change

Current Provision We have installed LED motion activated lighting wherever possible to reduce energy usage. Two years ago, new more efficient heating boilers were installed as well as a new flue. We also installed a new control panel in the boiler room. All these initiatives have reduce energy usage and costs. When inside we will aim to keep heating appliances to a minimum. We continue to try and gain more control over our heating especially the underfloor heating and many years of issues in this area, experts consulted and thermal testing done. We will continue to encourage parents and carers to dress their children in additional warm clothing and provide outdoor waterproofs. Staff will also wear warm outdoor clothing when appropriate, this will alter as seasons change, heating appliances are not used in warmer weather. We have an energy usage code displayed in all the rooms for all our community to be aware of. Wherever possible we order recycled paper and staff have personal codes on printers to reduce wastage. We are not eligible for the schools condition improvement fund. We have reduced business travel and make meetings online wherever possible especially since the Covid Pandemic. We promote the council's bicycle funding scheme whenever available with staff and parents/carers. We coordinated a petition with our school community and local residents for a zebra crossing outside school and with the help of our local councillor and governor this was installed a few years ago. It encourages walking to school or using the public bus transport system as the bus stops are on either side of the road next to the zebra crossing. We promote walking to school which includes the annual walk to school week organised by the Living Streets Charity. A new roof has been installed on the whole of the building. Joint air con and heating units installed in 2025- 2026 across all the classroom units.

Action	Timeframe	Information and costings	Progress
Investigate heating/ air conditioning for the offices and staff room	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Autumn 2027	Approximately £5000 per room but mobile smaller units to test and may be more cost effective.	
Continue to investigate the possibilities of solar panels after investigating this for a number of years with the council.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: End of year		
Research Count Your Carbon for cutting carbon emissions and their Early Years Eco School, carbon reduction guide and playground resource for children, if age appropriate.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: End of year	Data audit to complete	
Use a rotary airer on the purple veranda to dry cloths and mops etc, daily to reduce the use of the tumble dryer, wherever possible.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: End of year	£200 for airer and base	
Purchase dehumidifier for the basement to support the heating and ventilation in this area	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: End of year	£120	

4. Additional-Food and Waste- Reducing food waste and managing organic refuse cuts global greenhouse gas emissions by up to 10 percent and stops harmful methane gas from forming in landfills

Food and waste

Current provision We work with our gardener to grow food for our snacks and lunches, where the children are involved in the whole process. We have mini bins in the classrooms to collect compostable waste. We have worked closely with our new FM Catering provider and with lunchtime staff on appropriate food portions which has significantly reduced food waste. We use the council's services for recycling, general waste, food and hygiene waste. Our menus are monitored and checked to ensure sustainability and that they meet the Early Years food standards. We link all our menus to the NHS Better Health, Healthier Families recipes for parents and carers to access at home.

Action	Timeframe	Information and costings	Progress
Continue to develop community food planters on the one side of public footpath land which is the responsibility of the school and continue to survey the local community for preferences and involvement and start planting and growing sessions throughout the year. Eventually the aim is for this to be similar to the incredible edible scheme in Todmorden where food can be picked by the public. Children in school to be more involved during the day in planting and care of the planters.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Ongoing	Partial funding from the Alliance for Life Keighley project for seeds and plants	
Dog waste bin and bag dispenser and rhyme reminder signs for the public in the Community Planter area to keep this area safe and clean for all users.	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Ongoing	£200	
Children to grow herbs that can be used for a Christmas dinner to sell at our Christmas Fayre, to be planned with the gardener	Start: Autumn 2026 Review: Ongoing	£10	



Sustainability Support for Education is an online service for sustainability leads. From setting up a sustainability team or embedding climate change in the curriculum, to carrying out an energy efficiency assessment or adapting for flooding and overheating, you can find all you need for planning a holistic approach.

sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk



The National Education Nature Park brings together education settings into a virtual nature park, taking action to support nature's recovery. Curriculum-linked teaching resources and activities encourage a connection to nature, improve wellbeing, develop skills, knowledge and agency.

educationnaturepark.org.uk



For extra help with getting started or delivering your plan, you can register for free, in-person support from the Climate Ambassadors Programme or with their partners at Let's Go Zero.

climateambassadors.org.uk



Climate Action Advisors are experts, who offer free support for schools, colleges, and nurseries across England. They support schools to understand their carbon impact, make effective plans, and find funding and resources. They work with schools of any size, even those that are just starting their sustainability journey. They also spotlight local opportunities for how schools can work together. letsgozero.org