

## POLICY

### POLICY TYPE

|                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| MAT Policy to adopted in full across all schools |   |
| LGC Policy to be reviewed and approved locally   | ✓ |



*"Share the Love of God,  
every day in everything  
we learn, do and say"*

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Approval Date: | 2026/27 – AUTUMN TERM |
| Review Date:   | 2027/28 – AUTUMN TERM |

## ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

## Rationale

In line with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, St Philomena's is committed to taking practical action to reduce our environmental impact while preparing pupils to become responsible global citizens. Our school is committed to taking meaningful action on climate change and sustainability. Guided by *Laudato Si'* and Catholic Social Teaching, we seek to care for creation, protect our common home, and act in solidarity with the most vulnerable. This plan outlines how we will reduce carbon emissions, build climate resilience, and embed sustainability across our curriculum and daily life, empowering pupils, staff, and the wider community to live out their faith through environmental stewardship.

## Priority One: Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

### Aim

We aim to reduce our carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency through low-carbon technologies, smarter energy use and renewable energy. This helps lower emissions, reduce costs and promote environmental responsibility across the school.

### Rationale

Measuring and reducing carbon emissions helps the school lower its environmental impact and energy costs. Improving energy efficiency also models sustainable practices for pupils and the wider community.

| ACTION                                                                                                                                             | PROGRESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | EVALUATION                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Appoint a sustainability team.                                                                                                                     | The RHE coordinator will lead this priority, supported by the Green Team. This team of Eco Warriors is well- established and actively works towards a sustainable, green future. Contributions will also come from the School Business Manager regarding sustainable procurement and the Premises Manager regarding energy use and building efficiency. | Complete. Clear leadership and collaborative support ensure this priority is effectively managed, embedding sustainability across the school's operations and culture. |
| Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign. By joining this campaign, we confirm that we are taking action to reduce our carbon impact.                 | The Green Team to sign up the school to the Let's Go Zero campaign, formally committing to take action to reduce our carbon impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Action planned for Autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                        |
| Calculate our carbon footprint using the free digital tool.                                                                                        | The Green Team will calculate the school's carbon footprint using the free digital tool to identify key areas for reducing emissions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action planned for Autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                        |
| Investigate cost to install a smart meter. This is an important step to get data to track consumption and is needed to sign up to usage platforms. | This is an important step to collect accurate energy data and enable the school to use energy monitoring platforms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The Premises Manager to investigate the cost of installing a smart meter.                                                                                              |

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| Monitor Energy use. Sign up to Energy Sparks to obtain student friendly dashboards and a competitive element between schools who are tasked to reduce consumption..                                                                  | The Green Team will monitor energy use by signing up to Energy Sparks, providing student-friendly dashboards and a competitive element to encourage schools to reduce consumption.      | Action is pending, dependent on smart metre installation.                                                                                                            |
| Ensure efficient timings and temperature settings for the school day. Reducing the temperature by 1C can save 5% of the annual heating bill. There is specific advice on the DfE's efficiency publication around ideal temperatures. | The Premises Manager will ensure efficient heating schedules and temperature settings for the school day.                                                                               | Action planned for Autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                      |
| Investigate taking part in the DfE's Energy Cost Recovery Service. This will help understand energy bills and conduct historical audits to identify billing errors.                                                                  | The Green Team will investigate participating in the DfE's Energy Cost Recovery Service to better understand energy bills and conduct historical audits to identify any billing errors. | Action planned for Autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                      |
| Include sustainability as part of criteria for procurement e.g recycled materials, non toxic or ethically sourced.                                                                                                                   | The School Business Manager will ensure sustainability is included in procurement criteria, prioritising recycled materials, non-toxic products, and ethically sourced goods.           | This is an ongoing action, with sustainability continually being integrated into procurement decisions to support ethical and environmentally responsible practices. |

## Priority Two: Sustainable Food

### Aim

We aim to reduce the climate impact of our school's food by promoting plant-based meals, minimising food waste and sourcing food ethically and sustainably.

### Rationale

Adopting sustainable food practices helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimise waste and promote ethical and environmentally responsible choices within the school community.

| ACTION                                         | PROGRESS                                                                                    | EVALUATION                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hold a planet friendly day to the school menu. | Nourish Caterers will ensure that one day each week offers only vegetarian and vegan meals. | Complete. This is a good step towards reducing the school's carbon footprint and promoting sustainable eating habits. |

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| Ensure food is produced, sourced, consumed and disposed of in such a way that considers the protection of the environment, provides benefit for society and sets high standards for animal welfare. | Implemented through the school's contract with Nourish Catering, which follows a clear sustainability policy.                           | Complete. Partnering with a catering provider that follows a robust sustainability policy demonstrates strong commitment to ethical and environmentally responsible food practices. |
| Improve composting. Snack time fruit can be collected and emptied into the compost.                                                                                                                 | The Green Team will manage daily composting by collecting snack-time fruit and adding it to the compost bins.                           | This daily composting routine helps reduce food waste and supports the school's commitment to sustainable practices.                                                                |
| Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates and feed back to caterers.                                                                                                                                 | The Green Team will conduct a scheduled weekly weigh-in of food waste from the kitchen and plates and provide feedback to the caterers. | Action planned Autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                                         |

### Priority Three: Sustainable Transport

#### Aim

We aim to reduce the carbon impact of travel associated with the school by promoting walking, cycling and low-emission transport options for staff, pupils and visitors.

#### Rationale

Transport is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Encouraging sustainable travel reduces our environmental footprint, improves air quality and fosters healthy, active lifestyles within the school community.

| ACTION                                      | PROGRESS                                                                                                                              | EVALUATION                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ensure the school is committed to recycling | Classrooms and the lunch hall have clearly labelled bins for different waste streams, with recycling collected on a regular schedule. | This ongoing practice supports effective waste segregation and helps ensure recyclable materials are properly processed. |
| Education around recycling                  | The Green Team will hold an assembly in the Autumn term to educate pupils about recycling and responsible waste management.           | Once delivered, will raise awareness and encourage positive recycling habits across the school.                          |
| Engage with a plastic reduction campaign    | Green Team to sign up to become a plastic free school with Surfers Against Sewage                                                     | Action planned for Spring 2026.                                                                                          |

**Priority Five: Climate Adaptation and Resilience****Aim**

We aim to prepare the school for the impacts of climate change by reducing risks such as flooding and overheating, and by safeguarding scarce resources to ensure long-term sustainability.

**Rationale**

Taking proactive measures helps protect the school environment, ensures the wellbeing of pupils and staff, and future-proofs resources against potential climate-related shortages.

| ACTION                                                                                                               | PROGRESS                                                                                                                                                                                     | EVALUATION                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plant more trees and drought resilient plants.                                                                       | Green team secured funding for 5 trees in 2026 via Viola.                                                                                                                                    | Green Team will apply for further funding from the Woodland Trust                                                       |
| Write a heatwave policy that addresses areas such as school dress code, passive ventilation measures and PE lessons. | Green Team to draft a heatwave policy to address issues such as uniform, PE, suncream and outdoor learning Green team to present and submit for approval.                                    | Action planned spring 2026 to provide clear guidance and promote consistent practice across the school.                 |
| Conduct a grounds audit using LtL tool for climate resilience.                                                       | The Premises Manager will use the Learning through Landscapes resource to carry out a comprehensive grounds audit, identifying areas for improvement in sustainability and outdoor learning. | Planned for Autumn 2026, this audit will help inform decisions to improve the school grounds' environmental resilience. |
| Fill water butts with rain water to water the school garden.                                                         | Water butts have been filled with rainwater to provide a sustainable source for watering the school garden.                                                                                  | This measure effectively reduces mains water use and supports environmentally friendly gardening practices.             |

**Priority Six: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure****Aim**

We aim to boost the school's ecological value by creating habitats, planting native species and adding green infrastructure such as wildflowers, trees and hedgerows, supporting wildlife and outdoor learning.

**Rationale**

Creating habitats and adopting sustainable practices enhances species diversity on the school grounds and contributes positively to the wider local environment

| ACTION                                    | PROGRESS                                                 | EVALUATION                  |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Switch to Ecosia as default search engine | Green team to present in staff meeting to promote usage. | Action planned spring 2026. |

|                                           |                                                                                                                    |                             |
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| Engage with The Nature Park.              | The Green Team will collaborate with the local nature park to integrate nature-based learning into the curriculum. | Action planned spring 2026. |
| Switch to Ecosia as default search engine | Green team to present in staff meeting to promote usage.                                                           | Action planned spring 2026. |

### Priority Seven: Climate Education

#### Aim

We aim to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to understand climate change and take meaningful action to protect the environment.

#### Rationale

Providing climate education empowers pupils to make informed, sustainable choices, fosters environmental stewardship and encourages positive action within the school and the wider community.

| ACTION                                                                                       | PROGRESS                                                                                                                                                                 | EVALUATION                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Develop communication strategy to share sustainability goals                                 | Climate action plan published to website. Green Team share successes via newsletter and on Seesaw.                                                                       | This is ongoing, with the Climate Action Plan published online and the Green Team regularly sharing successes through the newsletter and Seesaw to engage the whole school community. |
| Embed climate education in the curriculum                                                    | Learning reinforced through themed events, assemblies and outdoor education.                                                                                             | This is a well-established and successful approach, with planned provision each half term effectively reinforcing climate and sustainability learning throughout the school year.     |
| Empower children to become global citizens through increased understanding of climate change | Continue to provide opportunities such as farm visits, environmental workshops and cross cultural projects to strengthen connection to nature and global responsibility. | This is a strong and successful approach, effectively supporting SMSC development while deepening pupils' connection to nature and sense of global responsibility.                    |