

# Chilton County Primary School

## Climate action plan 2026-27



### Introduction

Our school is committed to playing an active role in addressing climate change and creating a more sustainable future for our children, staff, and wider community. This Climate Action Plan sets out our approach to reducing our environmental impact, increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, and developing the knowledge and skills needed for a greener future.

By developing and implementing this plan, we are taking an important step towards meeting national climate goals while delivering a range of benefits for our school. Through more efficient use of energy and resources, we aim to reduce operational costs and lower energy bills. We will also strengthen our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather and overheating, ensuring our school remains a safe and comfortable environment for learning.

This plan provides valuable opportunities for students and staff to develop an understanding of sustainability, green careers, and the skills needed in a low-carbon economy. By embedding climate education across our school community, we will empower young people to become informed and responsible citizens who can contribute positively to environmental challenges.

In addition, our commitment to climate action will enhance the wellbeing of students and staff, improve our local environment, and demonstrate our leadership in sustainability. By taking meaningful action, we aim to become a positive example within our community and strengthen our reputation as a forward-thinking and environmentally responsible school. In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, this Climate Action Plan includes actions across four key areas:

- **Decarbonisation** – reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency.
- **Adaptation and Resilience** – preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change.
- **Biodiversity** – protecting and enhancing habitats and wildlife within our school environment.
- **Climate Education and Green Careers** – developing environmental awareness, knowledge, and pathways to future green employment.

Together, these actions will help us create a more sustainable, resilient, and environmentally conscious school for current and future generations.

## 1.Decarbonisation

The following actions are to help reduce carbon emissions that are caused by our school.

| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Responsibility | Timescale     | Cost                                                     | Progress                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Obtain energy assessment from ACES (Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools) to identify areas where we can use less energy, save money and cut carbon.<br><br>Includes desktop analysis and site survey with recommendations on how we can implement energy saving solutions. | CR             | December 2026 | Assessment is funded by Oxfordshire CC<br><br>Staff time | Jun 26: Energy usage, floor plans provided to ACES for initial desktop analysis of our energy consumption. |
| Review ACES assessment when received and identify which improvements we will implement.                                                                                                                                                                                       | CR/BV          | 1 year        | Depends on improvement.                                  | Dependent on completion of action above.                                                                   |

## 2.Biodiversity

These actions will help improve habitat and biodiversity around our school.

| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Responsibility    | Timescale | Cost                                      | Progress |
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| Increase biodiversity on school property by appropriate tree planting. These will also provide shade and help reduce flood run-off.<br><br>Identify 3 further locations around the school to plant new native trees. Plant | CR/JS/CG/Eco team | 1 year    | Mature trees - £50 each<br><br>Staff time |          |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |         |                                       |                                                                                                          |
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| during autumn/winter 26/27. Ensure new trees are appropriately cared for.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |       |         |                                       |                                                                                                          |
| <p>Increase access to and continue to maintain school allotment.</p> <p>Continue to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers in school garden in a sustainable manner (water butts, compost bins, no chemicals etc).</p> <p>Continue to run free lunchtime school gardening clubs for LKS2 and UKS2 children.</p> <p>Achieve RHS Level 3 school gardening awards.</p> <p>Continue monthly volunteer sessions for school community.</p> | CR/JS | Ongoing | Low cost for resources.<br>Staff time | Jun26: weekly gardening clubs for LKS2 and UKS2 children. Monthly weekend volunteer session for parents. |
| <p>Monitor biodiversity in Forest School, and share results with school community.</p> <p>Conduct termly biodiversity survey within the Forest School area to record and monitor local plant and animal species. This will help children increase their knowledge of plants and animals while informing habitat improvement projects.</p>                                                                                        | DB/EF | Ongoing | Staff time                            |                                                                                                          |

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| <p>Monitor the school bird box camera to observe nesting birds and share recordings with all children.</p> <p>This will help children increase their understanding of bird life cycles, habitats and local wildlife.</p> | CR/All teachers | March-May 2027 | Staff time |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|--|

### 3. Climate Education and Green Careers

The following actions help us build capability on climate change and its impacts within our school.

| Action                                                                                                                                                                       | Responsibility     | Timescale                | Cost                 | Progress |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by inviting external speakers to come into school. This could include parents with environmental careers. | Office/BV/Teachers | Three speakers per year. | Choose free options. |          |
| Ensure every year group undertakes at least one curriculum project linked to sustainability, climate change, biodiversity or environmental stewardship each academic year.   | Teachers           | Ongoing                  | Staff time           |          |

#### 4. Resilience and adaptation

These will help us understand the impacts of climate change on our school and what we might do to improve the school's resilience to weather impacts like flooding and overheating through adaptation measures.

| Action                                                                                                                       | Responsibility | Timescale                     | Cost                                                                   | Progress |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Assess school's risk and vulnerability to climate change and create a climate adaptation plan to cover the identified risks. | CR             | Plan created by December 2026 | Staff time to create the plan.<br>Further cost depends on adaptations. |          |

#### 5. Active and sustainable travel

| Action                                                                                          | Responsibility | Timescale                      | Cost       | Progress |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Encourage active travel by investigating feasibility of providing walking bus(es) from village. | CR/BV          | Investigation by December 2026 | Staff time |          |
| Participate in an Active Travel campaign to encourage walking, cycling and scooting to school.  | CR/JS/Eco team | Once per year.                 | Staff time |          |

|                                 |    |               |     |  |
|---------------------------------|----|---------------|-----|--|
| Repair bike shed roof (Perspex) | CR | December 2026 | TBC |  |
|---------------------------------|----|---------------|-----|--|

## 6. Waste, consumption and recycling

These actions seek to reduce waste and consumption and improve recycling within the school.

| Action                                                                                                                                                 | Responsibility | Timescale                                                                                   | Cost            | Progress |
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| Continue to reduce waste by offering second-hand uniform e.g. at stay and play sessions.                                                               | Office         | Three events per year. Ad-hoc for individual requests.                                      | Staff time only |          |
| Prioritise the purchase of recycled products where they offer good value and the cost difference is minimal.                                           | CR             | Ongoing                                                                                     | Low             |          |
| Eco team to carry out food waste monitoring in the dining hall once per term. Identify areas for improvement.<br><br>Run a waste free lunch challenge. | Eco team       | Three monitoring sessions per year.<br><br>One waste free lunch challenge by December 2026. |                 |          |