



# Newlands Junior School Climate Action Plan

At Newlands Junior School, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we are keen to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit our school. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at Newlands to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable future.

## **Decarbonisation**

Make the school more energy efficient

### **Deliver more lessons outside**

Outdoor lessons promote active, healthier lifestyles while reducing reliance on indoor lighting and heating. Whether it's reading in a shaded area, conducting science experiments outside, or using school gardens for hands-on learning, outdoor education fosters engagement and sustainability awareness.

### **Install LED lighting**

LED lighting is a cost-effective and energy-efficient alternative to traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. By switching to LED lighting, schools can significantly reduce electricity consumption and maintenance costs while lowering their carbon footprint. LED bulbs also generate less heat, improving classroom comfort and reducing the need for air conditioning.

### **Install motion sensors to lights**

Motion sensors automatically turn lights on and off depending on occupancy. By installing these in classrooms, hallways, and restrooms, schools can significantly cut down on wasted electricity. This ensures that lights are only used when needed, reducing overall energy consumption.

### **Run a switch off campaign**

A switch-off campaign will help to raise awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. School will put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions and energy monitoring can make energy efficiency a long-term habit.

## **Climate Education and Green Careers**

The causes and effects of climate change creating motivated people who are inspired to act

### **Host a Sustainability-Themed Assembly Each Term**

Hosting a sustainability-themed assembly each term will ensure that pupils remain engaged with environmental topics. These events can feature guest speakers, pupil-led presentations, and school-wide challenges to encourage participation. Assemblies will help build a culture of sustainability and reinforce its importance the school community.

## **Aspiration's week**

Green careers relate to jobs and career pathways within areas tackling climate change. There will be more opportunities and roles within this field as more sustainable practices are being adopted throughout society. During our aspiration's week, we will invite people into school who work within these areas and help young people prepare for roles in sustainability.

## **The Curriculum**

Through our curriculum, children will be taught about and involved in learning about the climate developing their knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a society which reduces the impact of human activity on the environment.

# **Resilience & Adaptation**

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change and need to be ready for these and future changes. Resilience and adaptation are about how we do this

## **Heatwave Health and Safety Assessment**

As heatwaves become more common due to climate change, school needs to ensure the wellbeing of pupils and staff during extreme temperatures. A heatwave health and safety assessment will include ways to cool down classrooms, installing shaded seating areas, increasing hydration points and adjusting schedules during hot weather. Proactive planning will help prevent heat-related illnesses while fostering a healthier, more resilient lifestyle.

# Air quality

Air quality determines how much pollution is in the air. Pollution has a huge impact on our health

## Active and Sustainable Travel

The aim is to shift away from unnecessary car journeys and towards more active and environmentally friendly travel (cycling, walking or by taking public transport)

### Travel To School

A travel survey will help school to gather data on pupil and staff commuting habits. By understanding travel patterns, school can identify opportunities to encourage more sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport. This information will support decisions on bike rack installations, road safety improvements, and incentive programs for eco-friendly commuting. Pupils will learn that active and sustainable travel can have lots of benefits such as reducing travel costs, improving health and wellbeing, improving air quality and improving safety outside schools.

## Waste, consumption and recycling

As a society, we are consuming more and more. The result of this is an increase in waste. The items we consume produce a large amount of carbon emissions

### Recycling

Reducing waste and reducing our consumption of goods is key to helping to tackle climate change. This will be done by encouraging people to reduce, reuse and recycle. School will play a key role in changing these behaviours by leading by example and teaching about it. In Year 4 pupils will learn about recycling, visiting a recycling centre and spreading the importance across school. Recycling bags will be provided and checked by pupils.