ST JOHN'S Church of England Primary and Nursery School

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CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Summary of progress: May 2025 – 2026

Prepared for our school community

Part of the Let's Go Zero 2030 campaign

Our commitment

At St John's, we believe that we are stewards of the world God has entrusted to us. Every child, every family and every member of our school community shares in the responsibility to care for creation, to live gently on the earth and to speak up for the communities most affected by a changing climate. Stewardship, for us, is not a chapter of the curriculum, it is a daily calling that shapes how we teach, how we travel, how we eat and how we treat one another. 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' Genesis 2:15

As a Church of England school in the Southwark Diocese, we believe that caring for God's creation is at the heart of our Christian calling. Our commitment to sustainability is not simply an environmental duty — it is a spiritual one, rooted in our Christian distinctiveness and in our vision that every child ***'may have life, and have it in all its fullness' (John 10:10)***. That fullness of life includes the life of the planet we share and the lives of communities, near and far, who are most affected by climate change.

In February 2024 we signed up to the national Let's Go Zero 2030 campaign, joining thousands of schools attempting to reaching net zero by the end of the decade. In April 2025 we measured our school's carbon footprint using the Count Your Carbon tool, giving us the baseline data we need to plan meaningful action.

This page summarises the progress we have made against our Climate Action Plan during 2025 – 2026. It is deliberately woven into the wider curriculum framework that shape life at St John's:

- **Rights Respecting School (UNICEF):** our work protects children's rights under Article 24 (the right to a clean and healthy environment), Article 27 (an adequate standard of living) and Article 29 (an education that develops respect for the natural environment).
- **Global Neighbours (Christian Aid):** our pupils learn about the communities worldwide most affected by climate change and see climate justice as part of loving our neighbour.
- **Eco Schools:** our pupil-elected Eco Warriors, our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) and our Global Neighbours pupil-leaders drive practical action across school and curriculum.
- **School Travel Plan:** recently awarded Gold accreditation by Transport for London, following our sustained work on active travel.

- **Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Sustainability Vision:** stewardship of creation, hope for the future, community across generations and courageous advocacy for those with least voice.

Our carbon footprint

In April 2025 we calculated our whole-school carbon footprint using the Count Your Carbon tool, part of the Let's Go Zero campaign. The result gives us the baseline against which future progress will be measured.

Measure	St John's
Total whole-school carbon footprint	**196.03 tonnes CO_2e per year**
Per pupil	0.82 tCO_2e — below the primary school average of 1.00
Date of calculation	15 April 2025
Tool used	Count Your Carbon (Let's Go Zero)

Compared with the average primary school, we are already below average in almost every emissions category — fuel, electricity, waste, water, vehicles, school trips, and both pupil and staff commutes. The three areas where we sit above average, and where we intend to focus additional work in the year ahead, are food, general spending, and school uniforms.

Progress key

Throughout this summary, the coloured cells show the status of each action:

COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS	STALLED	NOT STARTED

Our sustainability leadership

Our Climate Action Plan is led by Lulu Esua, Corinne Singh and Sarah Skilton, working alongside our Sustainability Working Group: Sarah Skilton, Guy Redhead, Juliet Barter, Rob Pryor (Governor), PSA parents and our pupil-elected Eco Warriors.

Getting started

Action	Outcome
Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign *Committing publicly to net zero action by 2030.*	**COMPLETE** Signed up 12 February 2024. St John's is now part of the national Let's Go Zero network.
Calculate our school's carbon footprint *Using the Count Your Carbon tool.*	**COMPLETE** Baseline established on 15 April 2025: 196.03 tCO_2e per year. This is the figure against which we will measure future progress.
Sign up to the DfE's Sustainability Support for Education service *For quality-assured guidance and resources.*	**COMPLETE** Signed up in April 2025. We have used the service to shortlist priority actions. (An early exploration of air filters proved not practical for our setting.)

1. Decarbonisation and energy efficiency

Reducing carbon emissions from how we power, heat, feed and equip the school.

Energy

Action	Outcome
Complete installation of a smart meter *So we can track and reduce consumption in real time.*	**In progress** Contractors visited over Easter to check the system but were not fully satisfied that a smart meter could be installed at the current on-site location. We are awaiting the next step from the supplier.
Ensure our Building Management System has efficient timings and temperatures *For example, 6 am – 1 pm at 18°C in classrooms.*	**COMPLETE** Our school boiler engineers have set optimal timings and temperatures across the winter, spring and summer terms. A minor issue with the KS2 panel is with the company for review.

Food and waste

Action	Outcome
Teach about the environmental impact of eating less meat, and promote plant-based menu options *Through lessons, assemblies and pupil-led work.*	**COMPLETE** This has been threaded through the curriculum. A Healthy Eating leaflet has been sent to parents. Take-up of plant-based lunch options continues to grow.
Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates, and share results with pupils *Led by our Eco Warriors as part of the eco-club programme.*	**COMPLETE** Pupils have led an assembly sharing the weekly weight of waste, and Year 6 have taken responsibility for measuring, recording and offering advice to reduce waste — deliberately linked to our Global Neighbours curriculum.

2. Climate adaptation and resilience

Reducing the risks of flooding and overheating, and helping our school building and grounds cope with a changing climate.

Transport

Action	Outcome
Run active travel campaigns *Participating in Living Streets, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, and Cycle to School Week.*	**COMPLETE** Our first Walk to School Week ran from 6 October, with our JRSOs leading an assembly and further participation planned for the National Week. St John's has been awarded Gold accreditation on the Transport for London School Travel Plan — a headline achievement for the year. Scooter training has been completed for YR – Y3 and Bikability training for Y5.

Adaptation and resilience

Action	Outcome
Conduct a heat audit of the school site *Checking that windows and blinds open and close.*	**COMPLETE** Completed and integrated into our Health and Safety Walk. Ensuring class tech is off at appropriate times and windows are closed during winter months. Pupils have driven this work, and it will continue as a routine check in the coming school year.

Action	Outcome
Conduct a grounds audit for climate resilience *Using the Learning through Landscapes tool.*	**COMPLETE** Guttering repairs completed 6 October. Parents have improved our green space through planting and ongoing maintenance. A local high school and our School Council have jointly developed a 'relax calming' garden. Our garden club regularly weeds, waters and plants; KS1 and Year 5 have grown vegetables.

3. Biodiversity and green infrastructure

Creating habitats and adopting practices that enhance the diversity of species on our estate and beyond.

Nature

Action	Outcome
Enrol with the National Education Nature Park *To embed nature-based learning in the curriculum.*	**COMPLETE** Reception have visited the community gardens through the spring and summer terms to grow, water and tidy. Year 3 have visited Kew Gardens as part of their science topic. Gardening activities have been shared with families as ideas for the summer holidays.

4. Climate education, green skills and green careers

Making sure our teaching about climate change is knowledge-rich, and that pupils and staff feel supported and equipped.

Culture and curriculum

Action	Outcome
Set up a Sustainability Working Group including the PSA *With clear leadership across staff, governors and parents.*	**COMPLETE** The Sustainability Working Group is in place and actively involved. The PSA has been particularly engaged in developing the green space and the school allotment.
Include a commitment to sustainability in our school values statement *Including declaration of net-zero aspirations across our public communications.*	**IN PROGRESS** Draft wording is being developed for the school letterhead, website footer and newsletter. Our Collective Worship values already reference stewardship of creation. A dedicated sustainability logo is being finalised for use across school communications.
Add sustainability goals, projects and successes to our school website *So that families and the community can follow our progress.*	**IN PROGRESS** A dedicated sustainability page is being created. This summary document forms the first published content. The full plan and future updates will follow.
Set up a sustainability award for pupils *As part of the Eco Club's work.*	**COMPLETE** Awarded weekly, with House Points also recognising pupils' awareness of green and eco initiatives. Pupils have been appointed as Eco Warriors, with specific roles for monitoring energy use and recycling.
Provide CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability *Including Carbon Literacy training.*	**COMPLETE** Self-led and self-driven CPD has been undertaken and applied directly in the classroom. Staff Professional Development Meetings have had a science and sustainability focus, with Carbon Literacy CPD included.

Action	Outcome
Complete a curriculum audit and incorporate sustainability *Using resources from Teach the Future, the Natural Curriculum, Better Planet Education, The Harmony Project and others.*	**COMPLETE** The audit is complete. A whole-school sustainability map is in place and will be updated for the new academic year. Sustainability threads through our Science, Geography and PSHE schemes of work, and links directly to our Global Neighbours curriculum.

Green skills and careers

Action	Outcome
Access the Climate Ambassadors scheme *Connecting with local climate experts for pupil assemblies.*	**COMPLETE** The Climate Ambassadors scheme has been linked directly to our Eco Warriors, JRSOs and Global Neighbours pupil-leadership groups.
Support pupils to calculate their personal carbon footprints *Using the WWF Footprint Calculator.*	**COMPLETE** Our Eco Warriors have completed the survey on behalf of the school and shared the results with the wider school community. Year 6 have modelled the process for younger year groups. The exercise will be repeated in the autumn term to compare results.

Looking ahead: 2026 – 2027

Almost every action in our 2025 – 2026 plan has been completed or is under way, and our Gold-accredited School Travel Plan is a particular highlight of the year. Building on this progress, our priorities for 2026 – 2027 are:

- Resolving the smart-meter installation with our energy supplier, so that we can begin real-time consumption tracking through Energy Sparks or a similar platform.
- Publishing our finalised sustainability statement and logo across the school website, newsletter and letterhead.
- Focusing on the three areas where we sit above the primary school average — food, general spending, and school uniforms — with a particular emphasis on our pre-loved uniform scheme and procurement decisions.
- Deepening the links between our Climate Action Plan and our Global Neighbours, Rights Respecting School and Eco Schools work, so that pupils see caring for creation and caring for one another as the same calling.
- Repeating the pupil carbon-footprint survey in the autumn term to measure change.