Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary School
A Multi-Academy

At Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, we strive to thrive by being ready, respectful and kind every day. We do our very best in all that we do, for the glory of Christ, knowing that:

"With God all things are possible"

Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School is committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School together with the Rosary Trust demonstrates strong civic leadership and considers all aspects of sustainability as high importance to both the school and the Trust. It is also vital that our organisation enhances its energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions and continue to drive down the cost of our operations. We must also align with the Government target of becoming Net Carbon Zero by 2040.

To demonstrate our commitment to energy and sustainability Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School aims to meet its social, legal and educational responsibilities via the implementation of the following Energy & Sustainability Policy. We will focus on staff and pupil behaviour as well as the school buildings and grounds.

The Local Governing Board together with the Rosary Trust and the Executive Team are committed to continually improving its environmental performance whilst still maintaining high standards of health and safety and acceptable levels of comfort for all building users.

Our climate change team consists of:

- Headteacher
- Chair of Governors
- The School Business Manager
- Eco Schools subject Lead Teacher
- Site Manager
- Eco School pupil group

The plan is split into two sections:

- Section 1: Commitment to continue with the actions we are already taking
- Section 2: Action Plan for change

Our Lady Immaculate commits to continue with the following actions:

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Curriculum			
1	Climate education and green careers	We have a whole school approach which incorporates climate change into the curriculum and school life.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Climate education and green careers	We continue to seek out good practice to get inspired and share learning with other education settings on learning about climate change.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
3	Climate education and green careers	Through lessons, worship and the curriculum plan we encourage behavioural change by the pupils to help the environment.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
4	Climate education and green careers	The Curriculum at Our Lady Immaculate is designed to teach pupils about nature in their local area, for example different types of land and habitats, how they are managed, flora and fauna and weather patterns.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
5	Climate education and green careers	We teach pupils about how to reduce/eliminate single-use plastics at home. We encourage pupils to recycle in the school environment, and to look after our local area.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
Waste			
1	Decarbonisation	At Our Lady Immaculate we continually work to minimise our paper use e.g. through 'follow me' printing, reminders to only print, when necessary, photocopier default set to print on both sides to ensure paper waste is minimized.	School Business Manager/School Resource Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Clear recycling systems in place: clear expectations of what can be recycled. Separate recycling bins clearly labelled. Recycling separated and pupils and staff educated about the value of resources.	Site Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Our school operates a second-hand uniform shop which is available to parents all the time, parents encouraged to donate good quality outgrown items.	School Office Manager
4	Decarbonisation	Paperless communication with parents.	School Office Manager
5	Decarbonisation	Records Management system in place to reduce the amount of information saved on network drives and on the cloud, the school is beginning to adopt paperless record keeping where appropriate.	School Business Manager
6	Biodiversity	Food waste separated by kitchen and collected by Chelmsford County council all recyclable packaging in the kitchen is also separated for collection.	Catering Manager & Compost prefects Y6
7	Biodiversity	Regular litter picks completed around school site by pupils and the local area.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
8	Decarbonisation	Clothes bank at school regularly used by parents and staff.	School Office Manager
Food			
1	Decarbonisation	Catering team have a commitment to reduce single use plastic and food waste.	Catering Manager
2	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are educated about the impact of food waste on the climate and are encouraged to take action in school and at home.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
3	Climate education and green careers	Promote more vegetarian options and reduce the number of meat days. The menu includes a daily vegetarian option.	Catering Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
5	Climate education and green careers	Menu items are planned to be appealing. Pupil feedback in association with the school council is always taken into consideration to encourage foods that pupils enjoy eating.	Catering Manager
6	Climate education and green careers	Lunch time is managed to reduce queuing time to ensure all pupils are given time to eat and time to play to reduce food waste due to pupils feeling they do not have enough time to eat.	Senior Mid-Day Assistant
7	Climate education and green careers	Meals are managed so pupils can make a selection each morning – ensuring they are choosing something they want to eat, alongside reducing wastage of over cooking.	Catering Manager
Air Quality			
1	Climate education and green careers	Children are encouraged to come to school on foot, bike, scooter to reduce pollution near school. There are bike racks and scooter racks within the school grounds.	Headteacher / Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Biodiversity	The grounds are planted with a range of native trees and shrubs which improve air quality.	Gardening Club
3	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are educated about air pollution and how they can reduce their own exposure to pollution and how they can reduce their contribution to it.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
Travel			
1	Decarbonisation	We encourage walking to school, along with providing scooter racks and bike racks. We are currently looking into walk to school week and 'Walk on Wednesday' initiative.	Headteacher / Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Decarbonisation	Bike ability training is offered to all pupils in KS2.	School Office Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Parents/Carers of pupils in year 5 and 6 are encouraged to allow their children to be responsible for getting themselves to and from school at least part of the journey.	Headteacher
Reducing Energy			
1	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders to staff to switch off all lights, appliances and plugs when not in use.	Site Manager / Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Decarbonisation	Energy costs are monitored monthly and concerns investigated.	School Business Manager
3	Decarbonisation	Room thermometers are used to monitor temperature levels, for heating purposes we maintain the following temperature levels: • 18°C-20°C for parts of the building where there is a normal level of activity.	Site Manager
4	Decarbonisation	Regular reminders for windows and doors to be kept closed when the heating is on ensure maximum efficiency of insulation and warmth.	Site Manager
5	Decarbonisation	LED lighting has been installed across the whole site.	School Business Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Outdoor Space			
1	Biodiversity	Green spaces utilised well across the school including regular use of outdoor learning sessions for every pupil, our prayer garden has recently been renovated and will include environmentally friendly outdoor furniture to promote further outdoor learning.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Biodiversity	Children make bird feeders as a part of the curriculum, we have established bird houses, bug hotels, and a pond installed to support local wildlife in our wildlife area.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
3	Climate education and green careers	Pupils are involved in looking after our green spaces, we have an onsite forest school to educate the pupils which is open to the reception class throughout the year to allow pupils to interact with nature. Other classes are also allowed to use the forest garden space for outdoor learning.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
4	Biodiversity	We have a wildlife area with pond which attracts insects and pondlife to the area.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
5	Biodiversity	Where possible we do not use any chemicals within our outside space to help wildlife. We work closely with our grounds maintenance team to find alternatives to chemicals.	Site Manager
6	Adaption and Resilience	We have introduced additional shade structures to reduce heat risk and allow time outdoors in hot weather, a new canopy in the prayer garden has been installed.	Headteacher
Water			
1	Climate education and green careers	Curriculum plans include learning about local water scarcity and hazard risks to encourage a culture of saving, rather than wasting water and to encourage creative ideas for how water can be saved at school.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
2	Climate Education and Green Careers	Eco schools' council are planning to share findings and progress about water conservation with the school community, to involve staff, pupils and parents by raising awareness we aim to get all groups on board with adopting water saving habits.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
3	Climate Education and Green Careers	At the start of the academic year our Friends Association provide each new reception pupil with a reusable water bottle and staff/parents/pupils are encouraged to use refillable water bottles / coffee cups and educate them to pour leftover water onto the garden. We have no single use cups in use on the school day.	Eco Schools Lead Teacher
4	Adaption and Resilience	Updated taps in the reception class have been installed, we now have push taps to ensure that water is on a timer system and not dependent on the children turning off the taps	Site Manager/School Business Manager

	DfE Link	Actions	Responsibility
Procurement			
1	Decarbonisation	Resources are bought with a 'just in time' mindset ensuring a reduction in over ordering and reducing waste.	School Business Manager/Resource Manager
2	Decarbonisation	Consideration is given to travel emissions in the supply chain and where possible local suppliers are used, for example our meat and fruit and vegetables come from local suppliers.	Catering Manager

Action Plan for change

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Curriculum					
1. Find creative ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum, especially in subjects where it may usually be absent such as PE, art or history.	Climate education and green careers	Evidence of curriculum links across subjects i.e. An art project showing the impact of climate change.	To be fully embedded by September 2026	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Our RE curriculum places particular focus on this with our first branch creation and covenant. We need to continue to incorporate teaching sustainability across the curriculum.
2. Increase integration of climate change into all subjects.	Climate education and green careers	Clear evidence of subject integration and regular learning of climate change. In R.E the first topic for all year groups is now creation and covenant which focuses on the children's roles as 'Stewards of the Earth'.	To be fully embedded by September 2026	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Ongoing as the curriculum adapts.
Waste					
1. Eco warriors to create climate change star ratings for each room and monitor rooms	Climate education and green careers	Each room has a star rating against key climate change areas including energy use / switch off	September 2027	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	

2. Identify what is being thrown away in your schools. Do a waste audit of classrooms, staff room, dining hall and the school office.	Decarbonisation	Audit created feeding into a waste reduction plan	September 2025	Eco Schools Lead Teacher and Eco council	Completed and to be repeated in Spring 2027.
Action	**DfE Link**	**Target/ Measure**	**Timescale / Deadline**	**Responsibility**	**Evaluation of action / result of action**
1. Provide recycling opportunities for a range of products (i.e. soft plastics, batteries etc.)	Decarbonisation	Additional recycling stations at school Items in school recycled/re-used/re-purposed	September 2026	School Business Manager	Completed, but we continue to look for further ways to increase recycling.
Food					
1. Encourage pupils and staff to bring plastic free packed lunches. Alongside a water bottle each day into school.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Reward system in place Reduction in waste	September 2026	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Ongoing
Air quality					
1. Encourage children to choose walking and cycling routes to school that are safer, and with less traffic and pollution.	Climate Education and Green Careers	More parents walk to school where the journey is less than one mile. Investigate the walk to school Week and 'Walk on Wednesday' initiative.	September 2025	Headteacher/ Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Ongoing, we participate in an annual walk to school week, we provide bike/scooter shelters and remind parents of the importance of regular exercise.
3. Create a clean air zone around schools by implementing 'active' solutions (encouraging parents/ carers to always switch off engines outside school, consider parents parking elsewhere and walking) to reduce pollution levels in and around school premises.	Adaption and Resilience	Posters / newsletter used to share clean air zone Eco warriors / School council to monitor parent parking Signs input around the site to communicate the message to all visitors to our school site.	To be started by December 2026	School Business Manager/Admin staff/Resource Manager/Eco Schools Lead Teacher/Eco Council and Head Teacher	We have signage in the school car park to discourage idling. We communicate to parents that they cannot park onsite through our newsletters. Site manager and Headteacher monitor parking.

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Travel					
1. Complete the school census 'mode of travel' question to provide a baseline of mode of travel to school data.	Climate Education and Green Careers	Census completed to create a baseline to measure against	July 2025	Eco Schools Lead Teacher Headteacher	Ongoing
2. Encourage staff and pupils to change the way they travel to school.	Climate Education and Green	Tokens in the hall to provide visual representation of travel modes	September 2025	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Ongoing
3. Reducing travel emissions on school trips	Decarbonisation	Consider transport modes for trips – add to trip checklist. Walking for town centre venues.	September 2025	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	We walk to local venues whenever possible i.e. Chelmsford museum, leisure centre. To investigate using trains instead of coaches where possible.
Energy					
1. Eco warriors to create climate change star ratings for each room and monitor rooms	Climate education and green careers	Each room has a star rating against key climate change areas including energy use / switch off.	September 2026	Eco Schools Lead Teacher	Ongoing.
2. Heating controls to be used to limit timings and temperature across school	Decarbonisation	Heating control panel quoted for to be fixed to work correctly Room thermostats used to monitor room temperatures throughout the day.	September 2025	Site Manager	Completed and we continue to monitor temperature settings and only use heating when appropriate.

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
Water					
1. Change taps in bathrooms to be push taps to avoid taps being left on.	Adaptation and Resilience	As taps need replacing we are purchasing ones that switch off automatically. Measurable reduction in water use.	September 2025	School Business Manager	Completed.
2. Ensure all sinks have access to plugs and staff are encouraged not to wash up under a running tap	Adaptation and Resilience	Plugs in situ and being used. Use of dishwashers in staff room and kitchen shows a measurable reduction in water use	June 2026	Site Manager/ School Resource Manager	Completed
Procurement					
1. Review common purchases to identify more sustainable alternatives.	Decarbonisation	Common purchases moves to sustainable alternatives.	September 2026	School Business Manager/School resource	Ongoing
2. Identify factors causing emissions from your regular or high value purchases – consider transport, disposable commodities, energy and fuel use, packaging, primary and secondary waste.	Decarbonisation	Regular and high value purchases moves to sustainable alternatives.	September 2025	School Business Manager/School Resource Manager	We use local suppliers wherever possible. We factor this into our procurement decisions.

Action	DfE Link	Target/ Measure	Timescale / Deadline	Responsibility	Evaluation of action / result of action
3. Ask regular suppliers if they have a carbon reduction plan and Net Zero Target.	Decarbonisation	Plans received from regular suppliers and contractors.	September 2025	School Business Manager/resource Manager	
4. Once purchases have reached end of life, is there an alternative use? Consider take back schemes offered by some our suppliers e.g. for furniture, recycling schemes like Olio and Freecycle or donating to local charities.	Decarbonisation	Reduction in waste / skip use More items recycled/repurposed.	July 2026	Site Manager / School Business Manager	We have recycled and reused items where appropriate and also donated some.