



Ramsey Manor Lower School

'Aspire, Achieve, Excel'

Ramsey Manor Lower School Climate Action Plan: 2025-2030

1. Introduction and Purpose

This Climate Action Plan outlines Ramsey Manor Lower School's commitment to environmental sustainability and climate leadership, in alignment with the Department for Education's (DfE) strategy for all schools in England. Our goal is to significantly reduce our environmental footprint, build resilience against climate change impacts, enhance local biodiversity, and embed comprehensive climate education into our curriculum and daily operations. This plan will serve as a living document, guiding our actions towards becoming a beacon of sustainability within the educational sector by 2030.

2. Sustainability Leadership

• 2.1 Nominated Sustainability Lead

Name: Colin Moore

Role: Headteacher

Responsibilities:

- Overall strategic oversight and championing of the Climate Action Plan.
- Ensuring the plan is integrated into school policy and decision-making.
- Authorising resources and delegating responsibilities to achieve sustainability goals.
- Representing the school's sustainability efforts to stakeholders, including the DfE, parents, and the wider community.
- Driving continuous improvement and ensuring regular review of the plan.

• 2.2 Sustainability Committee

To support the Headteacher, a dedicated Sustainability Committee will be established to drive initiatives and monitor progress.

Committee Members:

- Colin Moore (Headteacher & Sustainability Lead)
- A designated member of the Senior Leadership Team or member of the teaching team
- At least one non-teaching staff representative (e.g., site manager, administrative staff)
- Parent representative (optional, but encouraged)
- Student representatives (from Year 4, elected annually, to ensure student voice and engagement)

Committee Responsibilities:

- Developing, implementing, and monitoring specific actions outlined in this plan.
- Collecting and analysing data related to energy consumption, waste, and water usage.
- Organising and promoting sustainability-focused activities.
- Facilitating communication and engagement among students, staff, and parents.
- Identifying funding opportunities for sustainability projects.

3. Core Areas of Focus

• 3.1 Decarbonisation: Reducing Carbon Emissions

Our decarbonisation efforts will focus on minimising the school's carbon footprint through energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation.

Objectives:

- Reduce overall energy consumption (from 2024 baseline).
- Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources if possible.
- Divert more waste from landfill by 2027.
- Promote sustainable travel options for students and staff.

Strategies and Actions:

- **Energy Efficiency:**

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- o **Energy Audit:** Conduct a comprehensive energy audit to identify major energy consumers and areas for improvement.
- o **Lighting:** Explore replacing any incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED alternatives. Implement motion sensors in communal areas and classrooms where appropriate.
- o **Insulation:** Assess and improve building insulation (walls, roofs, windows) in older sections of the school.
- o **Heating Systems:** Optimise heating schedules and thermostat settings. Explore upgrades to more efficient heating systems.
- o **Behavioural Change:** Launch an "Energy Savers" campaign to encourage staff and students to switch off lights, projectors, and computers when not in use. Appoint "Energy Monitors" among students.
- **Renewable Energy:**
 - o **Installation:** Seek grants and funding for the installation of further renewable energy sources, if feasible.
- **Water Efficiency:**
 - o **Behavioural Change:** Educate students and staff on water conservation practices (e.g., turning off taps, reporting leaks).
- **Waste Reduction and Management:**
 - o **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Policy:** Continue with a comprehensive school-wide "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" policy.
 - o **Single-Use Plastics:** Phase out single-use plastics in the school canteen and encourage reusable water bottles and lunch containers.
 - o **Waste Audit:** Conduct regular waste audits (annually) to track progress and identify new reduction opportunities.
- **Sustainable Transportation:**
 - o **Walk/Cycle to School:** Promote "Walk to School" and "Cycle to School" initiatives through campaigns, competitions, and incentives.
 - o **Bicycle Storage:** Improve and expand secure bicycle storage facilities.

• 3.2 Adaptation and Resilience: Mitigating Climate Change Risks

We will implement strategies to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly extreme weather events, ensuring the safety and continuous operation of the school.

Objectives:

- Assess and mitigate climate-related risks to school infrastructure and operations. Ensure the well-being of students and staff during extreme weather events.

Strategies and Actions:

- **Risk Assessment:**
 - o **Climate Vulnerability Assessment:** Conduct an assessment of the school's vulnerability to climate change impacts (e.g., heatwaves, increased rainfall/flooding, strong winds).
 - o **Infrastructure Review:** Review the resilience of school buildings and grounds (e.g., drainage systems, roofing) to extreme weather.
- **Heatwave Preparedness:**
 - o **Shade Provision:** Increase natural shade in playgrounds through tree planting and install shaded areas/canopies by 2028.
 - o **Water Access:** Ensure easy access to drinking water throughout the school.
 - o **Policy:** Develop and disseminate clear procedures for managing heat stress during extreme heat events (e.g., altered timetables, indoor activities).
- **Water Management and Flooding:**
 - o **Drainage Systems:** Inspect and maintain existing drainage systems regularly. Identify and implement improvements to manage heavy rainfall.
- **Emergency Preparedness:**
 - o **Weather Alerts:** Establish a system for monitoring weather alerts and adapting school operations accordingly.
 - o **Emergency Plan:** Update the school's emergency response plan to specifically address climate-related hazards.

• 3.3 Biodiversity: Enhancing Local Ecosystems

We will engage in outdoor projects to enhance biodiversity on school grounds, promoting a healthy environment and providing living laboratories for learning.

Objectives:

- Increase the variety of plant and animal species on school grounds and create habitats that support local wildlife.
- Integrate outdoor learning and biodiversity into the curriculum.

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Strategies and Actions:

- **Habitat Creation and Enhancement:**
 - **Ponds:** Investigate the reinstatement of a small wildlife pond by 2027 to support aquatic life and amphibians.
 - **Bug Hotels & Bird Boxes:** Install bug hotels, bird boxes, and hedgehog homes around the school grounds.
- **Outdoor Learning:**
 - **Forest School:** Develop and expand Forest School activities to encourage direct interaction with nature.
 - **Curriculum Integration:** Integrate biodiversity studies into science, geography, and art lessons.
 - **Garden Club:** Continue to offer a thriving school garden club where students actively participate in planting, growing, and caring for plants.

- **3.4 Climate Education: Fostering Sustainable Citizens**

We will provide comprehensive education about climate change and sustainability to students and staff, empowering them to become informed and responsible environmental stewards.

Objectives:

- Integrate climate change and sustainability themes across the curriculum for all year groups.
- Increase student and staff knowledge and engagement in environmental issues.
- Promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills related to climate action.

Strategies and Actions:

- **Curriculum Integration:**
 - **Cross-Curricular Themes:** Embed climate change and sustainability into existing subjects.
 - **Age-Appropriate Resources:** Utilise engaging, age-appropriate resources, books, and digital tools for teaching climate concepts.
- **Experiential Learning:**
 - **Practical Projects:** Involve students in hands-on projects such as setting up recycling schemes or designing energy-saving posters.
 - **School Assemblies:** Conduct regular assemblies focused on environmental themes, inviting guest speakers from environmental organisations.
- **Staff Development:**
 - **Resource Sharing:** Create a central repository of climate education resources for staff.
- **Whole-School Engagement:**
 - **Nature Ninjas:** Continue to have a student-led team to take an active role in planning and implementing sustainability initiatives.
 - **Parental Engagement:** Share information with parents about the school's sustainability efforts and encourage sustainable practices at home.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Forge links with local environmental groups, charities, and businesses to enhance learning opportunities and community involvement.

4. Implementation and Review

- **4.1 Cultivating a Culture of Sustainability**
- **Recognition:** Recognise and celebrate student and staff contributions to sustainability through awards, certificates, and school newsletters.
- **Inclusion:** Ensure all members of the school community feel empowered to contribute ideas and actions.
- **Lead by Example:** Senior leadership and staff will actively model sustainable behaviours.
- **4.2 Regular Review and Updates**
- **Committee Meetings:** The Sustainability Committee will meet at least once a term (three times annually) to review progress, discuss challenges, and plan upcoming initiatives.
- **Annual Review:** A comprehensive annual review of the Climate Action Plan will be conducted by the Sustainability Committee and Colin Moore (Headteacher) by the end of the academic year (July).
- **Adaptation:** The plan will be updated to reflect new data, emerging best practices, DfE guidelines, and the evolving needs of the school and the wider environmental context. This ensures its continued effectiveness and alignment with national goals.

By diligently implementing and regularly reviewing this Climate Action Plan, Ramsey Manor Lower School is committed to playing its part in creating a more sustainable future and empowering its students to become environmentally responsible global citizens.

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