

Aspire Learning Trust

Climate Action Plan



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Aspire Learning Trust is committed to taking action to tackle climate change and reduce our carbon footprint. This is a high priority for us as, if we do not tackle it now, we will be leaving a damaging legacy that will affect our planet for future generations.

We recognise that by working together, through changing habits and behaviour and embedding those changes, we can make a contribution which may be small but when done alongside others can make real change possible. By taking immediate action we can ensure our future will be safer, cleaner and greener.

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in Earth's average weather patterns and temperatures, primarily caused by human activities. This process, also known as global warming, is driven by the release of greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to effects such as more extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and melting glaciers.

There are many factors that can change the Earth's temperature including:

- Burning fossil fuels
- Deforestation
- Generating energy
- Plastics and waste
- Food production

The trust can help fight climate change by integrating climate education into the curriculum, reducing their carbon footprint through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transport, and empowering students and the community to take action. We have already taken some important steps to reduce our carbon impact, but we still have a long way to go.

We will be focusing on:

- **Decarbonisation:** Reduce energy use (heating, insulation), improve efficiency, switch to renewables.
 - **Climate Adaptation and resilience:** Strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change
 - **Biodiversity:** Create nature-friendly spaces on our school grounds
 - **Climate Education:** Integrate climate change into the curriculum and empower student voices.
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Area	What We Already Do	What We Want to Do
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage walking, cycling, and public transport use - Work with Modeshift STARS on a travel plan - Provide adequate bike storage - Encourage parents/carers not to idle engines - Installed electric charging points at one school - Local authority buses provided for some students - Events like Walk to School Week and competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase only low-emission minibuses - Consider electric minibuses - Involve parents and wider community in sustainable travel initiatives
Energy & Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All schools have solar panels - SHSCC uses wood chip heating - Installed smart meters and lighting sensors - Encourage switching off lights/monitors - Monitor and regulate heating - Use LED low-energy lightbulbs to replace older bulbs as they stop working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess and reduce school carbon emissions - Replace all cleaning products with eco-friendly versions - Conduct a review of how well insulated the building are and take simple steps, like draught proofing windows and doors to keep in as much heat in as possible - Change all lighting to LED
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise trips into nature/wildlife - Encourage plant growing indoors and outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Forest School/outdoor lessons - Plant more trees and bushes on school grounds - Increase biodiversity and habitats on sites
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one meat-free day per week - Caterlink committed to sustainability and carbon reduction - Use Red Tractor/Farm Assured meat - Source locally/regionally where possible - Use seasonal produce - Food waste recycling bins provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further reduce food waste - Encourage student involvement in sustainable menu planning
Stationery, Furniture & Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reuse and recycle where possible - Only printing documents when it is essential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan and buy in bulk - Promote second-hand school uniform shops - Reduce paper usage

Plastic Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide water fountains to encourage refillable bottles - Recycling bins for plastic waste in all classrooms - Posters and digital reminders to recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase out single-use plastics completely
Curriculum & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lessons on climate, recycling, and sustainability - Encourage student-led climate action - Assemblies, guest speakers - Trips to recycling centres/businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase awareness of climate change impacts across staff, students and community - Create climate/sustainability section in school libraries - Staff CPD on sustainability and climate change
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some events and communications with families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively involve parents and local community in climate initiatives