



Furrowfield School Climate Action Plan 2026–2029

Vision Statement

At Furrowfield School, our Climate Action Plan will reflect our vision of 'Together We Succeed and our commitment to developing students who are imaginative, inquisitive, resilient, reflective and collaborative. Climate education and sustainability will be embedded within our inclusive SEMH provision, enabling students to understand their responsibility as citizens, contribute positively to their communities and develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for life in an ever-changing world.

The plan is designed to align with:

- Department for Education Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
- Climate Action for Schools requirements
- Equality Act 2010
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Gatsby Benchmarks (where climate links to careers)
- Gateshead Council's Advice and Guidance
- Furrowfield School Vision and Values

Climate Action Plan

Paramount to this will be our Eco **BELONG** Avenue. This will incorporate our Forest School, Gardens, Outdoor Classroom and Potting Shed. This will be used for outdoor and climate engagement.



B – Breathe
E – Explore
L – Learn
O – Outdoor
N – Nature
G – Grow

Strategic Aim 1 – Develop Climate Literacy Across the Curriculum

Why?

Furrowfield School's curriculum is research-informed and based upon Costa and Kallick's Habits of Mind, developing imaginative, inquisitive, resilient, reflective and collaborative learners. Sustainability provides an authentic context through which these curriculum characteristics can be developed.

Key Actions

Science

- Climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainability taught explicitly
- Renewable energy investigations
- Carbon footprint calculations
- Local environmental studies

Geography

- Climate systems
- Human impact on environments
- Sustainable communities
- Environmental justice and global inequality

English

- Climate-themed reading and non-fiction texts
- Environmental debates
- Persuasive writing linked to sustainability issues

Mathematics

- Data handling using climate statistics
- Energy consumption calculations
- Financial implications of sustainability

Art

- Environmental art projects
- Recycled materials projects
- Community exhibitions promoting sustainability

Food Technology

- Food miles
- Sustainable food production
- Healthy and environmentally responsible lifestyles

Personal Development
• Student citizenship • Responsibility and stewardship • Climate justice and equality • Community action projects
Forest School / Eco Belong Avenue
• Conservation projects • Biodiversity improvement • Outdoor learning experiences • Nature connection activities Forest School, gardening and nature-based therapeutic provision already form an established part of Furrowfield's enrichment offer and provide a strong foundation for climate education.
Success Criteria
• 100% of subject areas identify climate and sustainability links • Sustainability learning evident in curriculum planning • Student voice demonstrates increased climate literacy • Climate-related projects evident in student portfolios

Strategic Aim 2 – Develop Student Leadership for Sustainability
Why?
The Furrowfield Way encourages collaboration, resilience, inquiry and reflection. Student leadership opportunities strengthen personal development and prepare students for adulthood.
Key Actions
Create a Furrowfield Eco Council
Students will: • Lead environmental initiatives • Monitor energy usage • Carry out environmental surveys • Present findings to Governors • Participate in local sustainability events
Student Climate Ambassadors
Students will: • Support assemblies • Promote awareness campaigns • Organise litter reduction projects • Support biodiversity initiatives

Annual Sustainability Week

Activities may include:

- Environmental workshops
- Forest School projects
- Community clean-up events
- Guest speakers
- Careers linked to green industries

Success Criteria

- Eco Council established
- Student representatives from all tutor groups
- Annual sustainability report produced by students
- Increased participation in environmental projects

Strategic Aim 3 – Improve the School Environment and Biodiversity

Why?

Students benefit significantly from outdoor and therapeutic provision. Improvements to biodiversity support both environmental education and student wellbeing.

Key Actions

Biodiversity Audit

Conduct a whole-site review of:

- Green spaces
- Plant species
- Wildlife habitats
- Opportunities for enhancement

Grounds Development

Develop:

- Wildflower areas
- Pollinator-friendly planting
- Bird feeding stations
- Habitat creation projects
- Vegetable growing areas

Forest School Expansion
Further develop: • Nature-based learning • Conservation projects • Student stewardship activities Monitoring Students participate in: • Species counts • Habitat surveys • Biodiversity monitoring
Success Criteria
• Biodiversity baseline established • Increase in identified species • Annual biodiversity review completed • Student participation rates increase annually

Strategic Aim 4 – Reduce Environmental Impact
Why?
Schools have an important role in modelling responsible use of resources and developing environmental responsibility. This aligns with Furrowfield's values of kindness, thoughtfulness and empowerment.
Key Actions
Energy
• Energy monitoring programme • Switch-off campaigns • LED replacement programme where appropriate • Energy awareness training
Waste Reduction
• Recycling systems • Reduction in paper usage • Increased digital communication • Re-use initiatives
Water
• Water consumption monitoring • Student awareness campaigns • Leak reporting procedures

Procurement
Consider: • Sustainable purchasing • Durable resources • Reduction of single-use plastics
Travel
Promote: • Walking • Cycling • Public transport awareness - Independent Travel Training • Sustainable transport discussions within careers education
Success Criteria
• Annual energy reduction targets established • Reduction in paper consumption • Increased recycling rates • Environmental impact measures reported to Governors

Strategic Aim 5 – Embed Equality, Inclusion and Climate Justice
Why?
Furrowfield School is committed to ensuring all students feel valued, respected and supported. Equality and inclusion must remain central to climate action.
Key Actions
• Ensure climate education is adapted for SEMH needs • Ensure participation is accessible to all students • Promote diverse environmental role models • Explore how climate change affects different communities. • Monitor participation across protected characteristics.
Equality Impact Assessment
All major climate initiatives will be reviewed to ensure: • Equal access • No discrimination • Full compliance with Equality Act 2010 • Positive outcomes for vulnerable students
Success Criteria
• Equality impact reviews conducted annually • Student participation reflects the whole school population • Climate activities accessible to all learners

Develop:

- Wildflower areas
- Pollinator-friendly planting
- Bird feeding stations
- Habitat creation projects
- Vegetable growing areas

Strategic Aim 6 – Develop Staff Expertise

Why?

The prospectus emphasises ongoing professional development, evidence-informed practice and high-quality implementation.

Key Actions

Provide training on:

- Climate education
- Sustainability leadership
- Biodiversity
- Outdoor learning
- SEMH approaches within environmental education

Success Criteria

- Annual climate training included within CPD programme
- Sustainability included within induction
- Increased staff confidence measured through surveys

Strategic Aim 7 – Governance and Leadership

Leadership Responsibility

Overall Lead: Head Teacher / Assistant Head Teacher (NS)

Operational Lead: Climate and Sustainability Lead (identified member of staff)

Strategic Oversight: Governing Body

Governor Monitoring

Governors will receive annual reports covering:

- Curriculum implementation
- Environmental performance
- Equality monitoring
- Student participation
- Progress against targets

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Area	Measure
Curriculum	Climate education embedded across curriculum
Personal Development	Student participation and leadership
Behaviour and Attitudes	Student engagement in environmental projects
Leadership and Management	Progress against climate action objectives
Inclusion	Participation across groups
Environment	Energy, waste, biodiversity measures

2026–2029 Success Outcomes

By July 2029 Furrowfield School will:

- A fully established Eco **Belong** Avenue
- Have a fully embedded climate curriculum
- Maintain an active student Eco Council
- Students will have had the opportunity to obtain additional qualifications such as John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award, and AQA Awards
- Demonstrate measurable improvements in biodiversity
- Reduce environmental impact year-on-year
- Evidence sustainability within all Ofsted judgement areas
- Demonstrate compliance with the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
- Ensure climate action contributes to improved life chances for students through the Furrowfield Way and the school's vision of Together We Succeed - Belong Together

