

Date last updated	Feb 2026
Confirmed current	Feb 2026



Cromford Church of England Primary School Climate Action Plan.

Our Vision:

Cromford Church of England Primary School's vision is to ensure that our staff and our school leaders are equipped to provide our children with the knowledge and tools to understand climate change and what we can do to protect the environment whilst maintaining the integrity of our school building and the area in which it lies.

Cromford Church of England Primary School was built by Richard Arkwright Junior in 1832 for the children who worked in the local mills. The children attended part time to enable them to read and write. As the building has significant heritage, it has been designated Grade II listed.

We are committed to improving our sustainability while strictly preserving the historical integrity of our grade II listed building.

What is Climate Change:

The Oxford Dictionary's definition of climate change is: "changes in the earth's weather, including changes in temperature, wind patterns and [rainfall](#), especially the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere that is caused by the increase of particular gases, especially [carbon dioxide](#)."

Who will help us:

By working with outside agencies, we will be able to improve our carbon footprint and increase our sustainability. We will seek support from the following organisations:

- DFE
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Planning Department
- Derby Diocese
- Let's Go Zero
- 3rd party energy efficiency companies

DFE Climate Action Plan for Education:

In May 2023 the DFE published a sustainability leadership and climate action plan for education settings:

"The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan".

This includes non-domestic early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities. To ensure that the momentum and benefits already seen continue beyond 2025, [DfE Estate Management Standards](#) now include the requirement for a sustainability lead and climate action plan.

Wherever you are on your sustainability journey, this non-statutory guidance and the support available can help you get started or take the next step.

Support is available to nurseries, schools and colleges and is provided by DfE through:

- [Sustainability Support for Education](#): provides resources, services and tools to help you identify appropriate action to develop, or build on, your climate action plan
- [Climate Ambassador Programme](#): provides access to on-the-ground volunteer climate ambassadors and regional networks to support the development and delivery of impactful climate action plans, working in partnership with [Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisors](#)

- [The National Education Nature Park](#): provides curriculum-linked resources and practical activities to connect children and young people with nature and engage them in improvement of their local environment. Participation in the Nature Park is a great way to add meaningful education, skills and biodiversity action to your plan

There are many organisations providing courses, products, and services to support an education setting's approach to climate change. There are also many examples of excellent practice when it comes to sustainability and climate change in the education sector, and your individual setting or trust may already have a plan in place. Where this is the case, we are not suggesting that you create a new plan but you may still find ways to build on it to take a more impactful or holistic approach."

More information can be found on the DfE website [here](#).

Derbyshire County Council:

The DfE's Sustainability Strategy asks that schools have a Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Lead in place by the end of 2025. Two separate organisations (Lets Go Zero Climate Action Advisors and the Climate Ambassadors) can help schools create these plans and aid implementation of the actions. The third project (the National Education Nature Park – Nature Park for short) has a wealth of resources to enable pupils to lead on improving the biodiversity for their sites and increase their connection to nature.

1. Support to develop plans

Through online consultations, [Climate Action Advisors from Lets Go Zero](#) can develop a bespoke plan based on what the school already does and what they wish to achieve balanced with their capacity – plans are tailored and achievable with a range of practical low cost measures to reduce energy bills, increase active travel and reduce waste.

2. Support to deliver plans

The [Climate Ambassadors Scheme](#) is a fully-funded DfE programme that supports nurseries, schools and colleges to develop and deliver impactful action plans. In collaboration with Let's Go Zero, Climate Ambassadors can support a setting to explore creative actions for their plans, encourage pupil voice and contribute directly by supporting the delivery of specific actions in the plan across energy saving, site adaptation, nature-based solutions, and the curriculum.

3. Support to increase biodiversity

The [National Education Nature Park programme](#) empowers children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future. This free programme provides educators with the resources, support and guidance to embed nature into learning in a way that suits the setting and learners. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the way we teach and support young people to act and increase biodiversity across England.

Derby Diocese and Derbyshire Planning:

We will consult with the Diocese of Derby and the local Derbyshire Planning authorities to ensure support for any significant structural or aesthetic alterations to our building or grounds.

Our Mission:

- To help and support the children to care for their community and the environment.
- To educate the staff and children on recycling, re-using, re-purposing.
- To take a proactive approach to care for our school and grounds whilst being sympathetic to climate change.
- To ensure our staff and children are aware of and are prepared for extreme weather events, it's impacts and how we can manage/mitigate any issues that may arise.
- To improve our sustainability within the DFE guidelines whilst maintaining our school's integrity.

Our Plans:

WHAT	WHY	HOW
To create a pupil led "Eco" team.	To actively involve the pupils and show responsibility for their school, each other and local community.	We will generate a pupil team who will come up with ideas on how to improve our sustainability. The team will be given time to get together to discuss ideas with the head teacher.
To ensure recycling bins are located throughout the school with the correct signage.	To ensure we're being compliant with DFE guidelines and ensure that we reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Dedicated bins will be supplied throughout the school with the correct signage applied for food waste, recycling, and general waste.
To upgrade current heaters to energy efficient heaters.	To reduce our energy usage.	We are currently awaiting a quote to have our fan heaters upgraded to more energy efficient ones.
To upgrade lighting to LED lighting	To reduce our energy usage.	We are already in the process of having our lighting upgraded to LED bulbs.
To reduce paper usage	So we're sending less to be recycled or to landfill.	We are already in the process of moving our learning to online platforms to reduce our paper waste. We also communicate with parents via electronic platforms.
To install a flood gate to mitigate further flooding	To prevent further flooding of the school.	We are in the process of applying for planning permission to have a flood gate installed to prevent further flooding of the school.
To investigate the possibility of installing secondary glazing	To reduce our energy/heating usage.	We will contact Derbyshire County Council and the local planning authority to see if this is an option for the school.

To investigate the possibility of installing of solar panels	To reduce our energy/heating usage.	We will contact Derbyshire County Council, the local planning authority and a 3 rd party energy firm to see if this is an option for the school and the cost implications.
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