

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN POLICY

## Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School



**Approved by:** Kathleen Coll

**Date:** December 2024

**Last reviewed on:** Autumn 2024

**Next review due by:** Autumn 2025

## **Our Lady of the Visitation Primary School Climate Action Plan Policy**

### **Background**

The Climate Action Plan (“CAP”) of Our Lady of the Visitation Primary School (“OLOV”) has been prepared to align and support UK government regulation and international obligations. Specifically,

- The Paris Climate Agreement<sup>1</sup>, which aims to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius and includes measures relating to climate change education.
- The 2008 Climate Change Act<sup>2</sup> and subsequent linked legislation, which sets out emission reduction targets with which the UK must legally comply.
- The Environment Act (2021)<sup>3</sup> which reflects the need to tackle climate change through nature-based solutions that include statutory targets for air quality, biodiversity, water, resource efficiency and waste reduction as well as a new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.
- The UK’s 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>4</sup>, which commits to encouraging children to be close to nature both in and out of school.
- The Department for Education Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy<sup>5</sup> which sets specific education setting targets for sustainability, including a setting specific climate action plan and nominated sustainability lead by 2025.

### **Guiding Principles**

- **Ambition** – to recognise the school’s responsibility and leadership role in promoting environmental sustainability through:
  - adapting the school’s policies and infrastructure to consider carbon emissions and environmental impact, and
  - promoting green skills and education to pupils and staff to enhance employability and community contribution.
- **Collaboration** – the whole school will work together as a team to promote sustainability both within the school and the wider community. We will work with expert organisations to progress the school’s Climate Action Plan objectives.
- **Evidence and insight** - we will engage with staff, pupils, families, partner organisations and experts to measure, monitor and assess the school’s progress towards becoming a more environmentally sustainable organisation.
- **Leadership and support** – the leadership team will provide leadership and support to achieve the ambitions set out in the school’s Climate Action Plan. Governors will provide challenge, guidance and support to help ensure long-term success.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy>

### **Ambition**

- **By Sep25:** To achieve a **13% reduction** in the school's carbon footprint as calculated by the Count Your Carbon calculator in September 2024.<sup>6</sup>
- **By Sep29:** To achieve a **25% reduction** in the school's carbon footprint as calculated by the Count Your Carbon calculator in September 2024.<sup>6</sup>
- To **create and maintain a Carbon Action Plan** that outlines clear steps to reduce carbon emissions and promote environmental sustainability.
- To **progress the steps outlined in the school's CAP**, which will be regularly updated and monitored to achieve the school's carbon reduction targets.
- These **ambitions will be reviewed annually** by the head teacher, school business manager and nominated sustainability lead(s).

### **Approved by**

- Head Teacher: Kathleen Coll
- School Business Manager: Clare O'Mahony
- Nominated Sustainability Lead(s): Rachel Warren & Claire Rice

### **Administration**

- This policy was adopted in: **December 2024**
- This policy is due for review in: **December 2025**

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<sup>6</sup> OLOV Sustainability Review by Sustainability Managers for Schools C.I.C., November 2024

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