Abbey Academies Trust

Sustainability Action Plan

Amended

September 2025		

'Striving for excellence, caring for all within a loving and caring Christian Environment.'

Goal	Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or completion date	Resources
Setting the Groundwork	Create a sustainability working group	Assemble a team of staff members and stakeholders to collaborate on sustainability projects.	September 2025	Staff: Education staff, operational staff and senior leadership team Cost: Free
	Appoint a sustainability lead	Assign or recruit a staff member to take on the role of coordinating and leading sustainability initiatives.	September 2025	Staff: 1 member of staff Cost: Free
	Seek buy-in from leadership, governors and trustees	Speak with SLT, Governing Board and PTFA.	September 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead, education staff, senior leadership team, governors and PTFA. Cost: Free
	Appoint a sustainability focused governor	Speak with Executive Administrator about selecting a governor who may have experience with sustainability.	September 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead, operational staff and governors Cost: Free
	Build leaders' knowledge and awareness of sustainability and climate change.	Research CPD opportunities.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability team, education staff, operational staff and senior leadership team Cost: Free/low
	Engage with other professionals for guidance, support and sharing good practice.	Share good practice across AAT. Consider reaching out to other schools in the locality. Consider accessing further support through the Climate Ambassadors Scheme.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability team and education staff Cost: Free/low

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Establishing a baseline	Understand what data is available across all areas of sustainability	Identify and gather information related to sustainability, such as energy usage, waste generation, water consumption and spend data.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead and operational staff Cost: Free
	Understand our school's energy efficiency by conducting a review of energy use.	Review the Recommendation Report from our Display Energy Certificate [DEC] to understand our energy efficiency. Find out how much is spent on energy currently.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead and operational staff Cost: Free
	Understand our school's waste by conducting a bin audit.	Speak with Senior Administrator and Site Manager to understand more about our waste collection. Speak to the kitchen staff about how much food waste is created.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead and operational staff Cost: Free
	Understand our school's carbon footprint by identifying where our emissions come from.	Use an online tool such as https://www.countyourcarbon.org/ Count your Carbon (read the guidance here on what data to collect)	Autumn Term – new figures are updated from the 15th September 2025	Staff: Sustainability Lead and operational staff Cost: Free

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Decarbonisation	Reduce carbon emissions in our buildings by teaching lessons outside.	Access free support online through websites such as Learning through Landscapes https://ltl.org.uk/ Consider engaging in Outdoor Classroom Day on 6th November 2025.	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability Team and education staff Cost: Free
	Enable Eco Warriors to continue to champion switching off unnecessary devices.	Continue to engage with 'Switch-off Fortnight.' Eco Warriors to audit empty classrooms; utilise stickers and signs to remind staff and pupils to switch off electronic items when not in use.	Switch Off Fortnight: 10th – 23rd November 2025	Staff: Green Team and Eco Warriors Cost: Free
	Take part in National campaigns such as Cut your Carbon (as suggested in Green Flag Report)	Sign up to campaign. Deliver whole school assembly. Children to complete different actions to help cut their emissions.	November is Cut your Carbon month.	Staff: Greem Team and Eco Warriors Cost: Free

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Biodiversity	Increase our schools' knowledge of biodiversity	Audit pupils' current understanding. Continue to offer gardening club in KS1. Offer gardening club in KS2. Simple gardening club ideas / RHS Campaign for School Gardening	Autumn Term 2025 Spring Term 2025	Staff: Education Staff Cost: Free/low
	Plant more trees and flowers in the outdoor area	Plant 100 new trees. Plant wildflower seeds to encourage pollinators.	Spring Term 2025	Staff: Education Staff Cost: Funded through local company
	Increase biodiversity on school property by rewilding areas of school's grounds.	Select an area of school ground suitable for rewilding. Decide what type of rewilding (wildflower field, pond, insect hotels etc.). Buy native plants, stop using chemicals/ pesticides. Let the area grow. Educate staff and students on their maintenance.	Ongoing dependent on plants chosen	Staff: Sustainability Team, Site manager and SLT. Cost: Low, particularly if taking cuttings/propogating

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Climate Education and Green Careers	Share with staff and pupils what climate change action we are taking by promoting successes and achievements	Hold KS1 and KS2 assemblies. Newsletters home; Eco Warriors could help to write this Get students involved throughout e.g. planting or maintaining trees/flowers planted	Autumn Term 2025	Staff: Sustainability Team and Eco Warriors Cost: Free
	Increase our school's knowledge of climate change initiatives by joining a climate network.	Research networks and decide which is the best for our school to keep up to date with latest information and opportunities. Sign up to the network. Consider: ClimateEmergency@southwark.gov.uk Home - Eco Schools (eco-schools.org.uk) UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero (letsgozero.org) Start engaging with network, attend meetings, read newsletters etc.	Ongoing	Staff: Sustainability Team Cost: Free/low
	Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by incorporating it in more lessons.	Get lead staff on board early. Use resources with information on how to embed. Embed climate change in other lessons. Review impact.	Autumn Term 2025 – Curriculum Team meetings	Staff: Education Staff Cost: Free/low
	Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by inviting external	Arrange for external speakers to come into school to run workshops/ talks.	Ongoing throughout the school year	Staff: Visitors and Outside agencies Cost: Free/low

	speakers to come into school.	Consider: SKDC (KS1) Anglian Water (KS2)		
	Expose children to more green careers through everyday science teaching	When selecting 'A Scientist Like Me Slides' in science lessons, ensure Green careers are included	Ongoing throughout the school year	Staff: Sustainability Lead, Science Team and Education Staff Cost: Free

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Adaptation and resilience	Planning: Create a policy to relax dress code in periods of hot weather.	Encourage pupils to wear loose, light-coloured clothing. Sunhats. Sunscreen. Teachers should also encourage children to take off their jumpers.	Summer Term 2026	Staff: Sustainability Lead, operational staff and SLT Cost: Free
	Increase our school's knowledge of resilience and adaptation by promoting water conservation practices.	Run a campaign within your school. This could include posters or newsletters about conserving and not wasting water. The Pod | Water Week (jointhepod.org) Conserving water / RHS Campaign for School Gardening	Summer Term 2026	Staff: Sustainability Team and Eco Warriors. Cost: Free