

**Seaton Delaval First School Climate Change & Sustainability Policy**

**1. Policy Statement**

Seaton Delaval First School recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, preparing pupils for the challenges of the future, and supporting the UK Government’s goal of reaching net zero carbon emissions.

This policy sets out how our school will embed sustainability across teaching, learning, leadership, and estate management in line with the Department for Education’s Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2022).

**2. Aims and Objectives**

We will:

* Reduce the school’s carbon footprint through efficient use of energy, water, and resources.
* Adapt the school site and operations to increase resilience to climate impacts (heat, flooding, extreme weather).
* Educate and empower pupils to develop sustainable habits and become climate-conscious citizens.
* Work with staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community to achieve shared sustainability goals.
* Contribute to national targets for decarbonisation and biodiversity.

**3. Responsibilities**

* Governing Body: Oversight of progress towards sustainability targets.
* Headteacher: Ensures policy implementation and resource allocation.
* Sustainability Lead: Coordinates the Climate Action Plan, monitors progress, and reports annually to governors.
* All Staff: Support sustainability through curriculum delivery and daily practices.
* Pupils: Participate actively in eco-initiatives and develop responsible habits.

**4. Curriculum and Learning**

* Embed sustainability and climate change across subjects, including science, geography, and PSHE.
* Provide opportunities for outdoor learning and environmental stewardship (e.g. gardening, forest school, recycling schemes).
* Celebrate key sustainability events (Earth Day, National Recycling Week, Walk to School Week).
* Promote critical thinking and problem-solving around real-world environmental challenges.

**5. Energy and Resource Management**

* Monitor and reduce energy consumption across the school.
* Switch to energy-efficient lighting and heating where possible.
* Minimise waste through reduce–reuse–recycle practices.
* Introduce paperless systems where practical.
* Promote responsible water use.

**6. School Grounds and Biodiversity**

* Enhance biodiversity through planting schemes, bug hotels, and bird feeders.
* Maintain green spaces for learning and wellbeing.
* Manage outdoor areas to be resilient to extreme weather (shade trees, flood prevention measures).

**7. Travel and Transport**

* Encourage walking, cycling, and scooting to school.
* Provide safe cycle/scooter storage.
* Work with families to reduce unnecessary car use and promote shared transport.

**8. Procurement and Catering**

* Source food and resources responsibly, giving preference to sustainable and local suppliers where possible.
* Minimise single-use plastics in catering and classrooms.
* Explore plant-based and low-carbon menu options.

**9. Monitoring and Review**

* The Sustainability Lead will review progress termly and present updates to the Headteacher and Governing Body.
* A full annual review will be published on the school website.
* Pupil voice (via School Council) will be incorporated into monitoring.
* This policy will be reviewed every two years.

**10. Policy Adoption**

This Climate Change & Sustainability Policy was adopted by Seaton Delaval First School Governing Body on 02.09.2025.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

Next Review Date: [July 2027]