

# Climate Change and Sustainability Plan 2023 - 2028

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# Foreword

The UK Government has laid out plans regarding Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. As a school, we can play our own part in how we support this goal in our own environment.

In 2024, the Secretary of State made changes to the agenda to include Climate Change with a powerful statement;

*The challenge of climate change is formidable. For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth, but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field.*

Through careful strategy for the future, collaboration with our local community and service providers, we too can set and achieve goals on making our school more sustainable whilst supporting the challenges presented in relation to climate change.

In the next five years, we must look to reducing our carbon footprint, energy usage and amounts of waste.

Through raising awareness of issues, education of the school population in the five key areas outlined and through informed planning, we can set out a pathway to success at Caldew School which will positively impact us financially, environmentally and socially by 2028.

LISA HOLLYWOOD  
BUSINESS MANAGER

# Our Vision

The school's vision is to set long term goals which lead us towards net zero in line with UK Government deadlines. To achieve this, we must ensure that the decisions we make in the future are neither detrimental to the environment or to our community. That the decisions we make enable to the school to continue to thrive.

## **Focus on what matters to us now**

By listening to stakeholders and the wider community and considering feedback as part of our decisions when leading on school strategy, we can focus our work on areas where the school can make effective changes.

School leaders can then create a tailored strategy for the next five years with interim goals to ensure that we stay on track to be successful in our efforts.

- We have already identified that human activity linked to energy usage/generation can be adapted to create sustainable solutions and savings.
- Waste can be minimised and sustainable consideration given to disposal.
- Sustainable alternatives to be considered in all procurement options.
- Ensuring that all teaching and learning is achieved in a sustainable way including the education of students to be equipped with sustainability skills providing knowledge for the future.
- School governance and management includes consideration for sustainability in our approach to investment, purchasing and the future of the school.

We will build sustainability into our curriculum areas and set out through Governance standing items for discussion, progress and review so that sustainability is at the centre of our decisions of the future.

To meet the areas of educational target as outlined by the DfE, we must refer to the proposed strategy to ensure we are focusing energy on what matters now at Caldew School is also linked to the areas highlighted.

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

1. Climate Education
2. Green skills and careers
3. Education estate and digital infrastructure
4. Operations and supply chains
5. International

## Resource Management

Responsible management of resources is one of the key factors to creating a sustainable environment in our school. The school must ensure it is a clean, healthy and safe environment which promotes the wellbeing of our staff and students at all times.

Caldew School is committing to nurturing individuals to participate in the changes needed to create sustainability with improvements in energy use, water management, waste reduction, catering, travel and procurement. This is built into the curriculum and raises awareness of climate change issues.

This is only achievable with a shared vision for sustainability and an understanding of what we need to achieve to support positive climate change. This will be underpinned by strong governance and

management and demonstration of commitment from leadership example.

We must therefore inspire our school community to engage and facilitate change.

### **Energy Use**

Aim – to reduce our DEC rating by use of the three steps as outlined in the **DfE Energy Efficiency Strategy for Schools** to reduce energy usage and costs:

- understand energy usage and conduct an energy audit, so you can target where to save energy
- develop a plan using your energy audit to encourage good practices, behaviours and further interventions
- implement and manage the proposed interventions to reduce energy consumption

Caldew has already implemented a number of strategies in regard to these including:

- use of frameworks for supplier contracts
- Installation of LED lighting using **Green Energy Grant**
- asking staff to turn off equipment and lights when not in use
- use of natural daylight where possible in work areas
- use of push taps in bathrooms and water pigs in urinals
- turning heating down a degree
- utilising the **Good Estate Management Toolkit**
- understanding and monitoring energy usage
- considering alternative energy productions and use

In 2025 the school undertook its first major refurbishment programme using our considered approach. From planning to resources used sustainability credentials were considered.

At planning stage, the reuse of existing materials and appropriate disposal of waste was implemented. The design used included use of natural light and low energy lighting in all other areas. Increased insulation and air source heating. The tenders included social weightings for awards and where possible local tradespersons were

used to fulfil the contract. We will monitor the impact of the insulation, lighting and heat sources when the DEC is reviewed.

The school has also considered the installation of solar panels. Initial reports have advised that the site is suitable for solar with the possibility of producing enough electricity to sustain both the school and a buyback programme to the National Grid. The Governing Body will review this in 2027 when further information is provided from at least two other sources in line with procurement guidelines. Initial reports suggest that the installation cost will be in the region of £50,000. Projected energy efficiency savings are reported at £1.2 million.

## **Waste Management**

Aim - Reduce, re-use and recycle...

Caldew School will ensure responsible waste management through all our waste activity. We will look to new or revised solutions to reduce our consumption of single use items, to re-use materials and recycle waste as much as possible and practicable.

We will achieve this by:

- Monitoring and measuring the amount of waste which school uses
- Investigation into alternative materials for use in school to reduce waste
- Sustainable procurement of items which can be recycled
- Promotion of student recycling schemes and schemes that promote economic and social responsibility e.g. uniform second use shop

National changes to food waste management implemented 31 March 2025 will be communicated and actioned in school. The school will use the opportunity to provide information on why this is happening and ongoing information of the impact of the changes locally and nationally.

## **Water Management**

Aim – to reduce consumption and prevent pollution of our natural environment.

The school has been working towards this aim for some years by:

- An audit to review water consumption and waste water management
- Review of land and use as the school grounds border a local water source
- Use of water control devices and automated meters to aid review of water usage

In the future the school will investigate the use of grey water and rain harvesting for use in the agricultural areas in school and science outdoor classrooms. Caldew will also consider use of **Aqua fund** initiative for assistance and advice on how to ensure sustainability of current and future initiatives.

### Catering

Aim – to increase student awareness of food sustainability and to ensure that we work to use suppliers who source food and drink responsibly and to reduce food miles.

The school will create a policy to use resources that meet our sustainability aims.

- Through the creation of menus which limit the amount of meat used but continue to deliver a balanced and nutritionally attractive meal
- To ensure that fish used on the menu is from suppliers who responsibly catch and manage their harvest
- To replace all plastic goods with alternatives which will also reduce waste.

The school has already installed water fountains in school and encourages students to re-use water containers. The school also limits the number of drinks students can purchase daily to encourage the use of these fountains.

Future initiatives include food education through the use of signage and posters in the dining hall and servery areas.

Pupil Voice to provide feedback on healthy options to meet the needs of the students with links made to the curriculum. Advice and dialogue will be sought with Food Technology, Social Sciences and Science departments.

Visits to other schools will be undertaken by the catering manager to ascertain initiatives used by similar schools exploring both food procurement and equipment used with better green credentials.

### **Travel**

Aim – to promote and educate all school population on the adverse effects of emissions on the climate and the positive impact of climate conscious travel.

- Creation of a sustainable travel policy
- Monitor travel options of service users to analyse data to look for alternative options including the use of public transport

The school has made valid steps to ensure low carbon travel options for staff with the introduction of a **Cycle to Work Scheme** which was relaunched in 2023. The school will consider the installation of electric charging points to encourage staff to utilise energy efficient vehicles.

The school has leased a new minibus which will be delivered in January 2026. This vehicle, the Vauxhall Movano has low fuel emissions. In addition, the school reflected on the ECO credentials of the manufacturer which includes a comprehensive commitment to environmental issues, recycling and use of sustainable materials during manufacture.

*We aspire to be the leading provider of sustainable mobility. For us, compliance with environmental laws, governing facilities and product performance is fundamental. We also recognise and respect the fundamental human right to clean air, clean water and environmental preservation. We are committed to promoting environmental responsibility among our workforce, dealers, suppliers, customers and local communities, by fostering a culture of environmental stewardship, and by engaging in dialogue and activities on environmental conservation. Through its Environment and Energy Policy, Stellantis commits to challenging objectives that reduce the environmental impact of our business on current and future generations, communities and resources.*

## Governance and Management

Aim – to create a shared vision for sustainability by empowering and inspiring staff, students and wider community to facilitate change and embed practice for the future. This will be demonstrated by example by school leaders.

In order to achieve this, we need to monitor progress against aims and regularly discuss progress or planning to ensure success. The school must empower all service users to engage in action on climate change.

Our success can be measured by **benchmarking** against other schools both locally and nationally and against other national institutions.

## Engagement and Collaborative Work

Caldew School must look beyond the boundaries of our own site to our local community and consider local sustainability concerns in order to achieve wider success. By engagement with stakeholders beyond the school we can contribute by sharing findings and successes to **create a community toolkit**.

For this to be successful we must ensure that climate change and sustainability is embedded in our curriculum and protocols and that service users are confident in their knowledge so that a wider dialogue can be both productive and positive.

We share a geographic location with a national/international company who will have their own sustainability plan. Longer term we need to explore international connections to support our aspirations. We also actively participate in local matters with our bordering primary school, village council and local businesses. We have a wealth of resources, knowledge and therefore opportunities to establish the school as a fore runner on sustainability issues.



The school will use these contacts and professional networks to monitor, enhance and build on this plan to ensure that by 2028 and beyond we continue to move forward with our goals.



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