

Our Sustainability Mission:

At The Discovery School, we inspire our children to care for the world they live in. Through learning, action, and example, we nurture a school community that values sustainability, protects the planet and prepares responsible citizens for the future.

Our guiding principles are:

Learn it

We provide engaging opportunities for pupils to explore environmental issues and understand the importance of sustainability through a rich and purposeful curriculum.

Live it

We demonstrate sustainable choices in the way we run our school from how we use energy and reduce waste, to how we care for our grounds and resources.

Lead it

We empower children to take action and make a difference in school, at home, and in the wider community, helping them grow into responsible, environmentally aware citizens.

Overview

The Department of Education's Sustainability & Climate Change Report (2022) has set their vision, for the United Kingdom to be the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030. Education must equip children with the skills to be agents of change for a climate-smart future.

Our School's long-term environmental priorities are to improve our environmental performance and play an active role in supporting the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). As educators, we have a key role and will also continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders and like-minded organisations to make our planet a better place to live.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)



Sustainability Strategy

In order to demonstrate our commitment to carbon reduction and sustainability, The Discovery School aims to meet its social, legal and educational responsibilities via the implementation of the following Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The Sustainability Strategy will focus on our guiding principles of ‘Learn it, Live it and Lead it’. We will engage with organisations such as The National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE), Transform Our World, Count Your Carbon and Eco-Schools. Our strategy is aligned with The DfE’s strategy for sustainability and climate change ([Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children’s services systems - GOV.UK](#)) and their focus areas of:

- Decarbonisation
- Adaptation and resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate Education and green careers




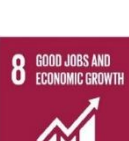
Ensuring success

In order to implement the strategy effectively, the Governing Body through its monitoring schedule will ensure that the following points are adhered to:

- This strategy is widely communicated and updated as and when required, or at least annually.
- Communication will be provided regularly to the whole school community, informing them of progress made and ways to improve.
- We will set an energy, consumption and waste reduction performance improvement targets. We then will regularly monitor and evaluate, in order to establish a baseline, measure improvements and identify priority areas.
- We will develop a Climate, Energy & Sustainability Action Plan for The Discovery School with clear priorities identified.

‘Learn it’


DfE Requirement: Climate education and green careers

Area	Short term objectives and long-term ambition	Resources required and KPIs
<div data-bbox="203 451 331 592">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 647 331 788">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 844 331 984">  <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 1040 331 1181">  <p>8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> </div> <p>Embedding good environmental behaviours</p>	<p><i>Guiding principle:</i> We provide engaging opportunities for pupils to explore environmental issues and understand the importance of sustainability through a rich and purposeful curriculum.</p> <p>Current Picture/Highlights</p> <p>We have a Sustainability Lead in school who has completed DfE carbon literacy training</p> <p>Forest School is an integral part of our curriculum offering.</p> <p>There are opportunities for children to explore environmental issues.</p> <p>Our short-term objectives and actions</p> <p>We will establish a working party to develop ways in which we can include a climate/ environmental focal point in our curriculum to further enhance current practice.</p> <p>We will engage with our school and local community in order to invite guest speakers</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Budget for continuous improvement to Forest School provision</p> <p>KPIs</p> <p>Annual number of environmental engagement and awareness events</p> <p>Clear evidence of where environmental sustainability has been integrated into the curriculum.</p>

	<p>in who have ‘Green Careers’ (similar to how we have with STEM)</p> <p>Our long-term ambition</p> <p>Environmental and sustainability education will be embedded in the curriculum.</p>	
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‘Live it’

DfE Requirement: Decarbonisation, Adaptation and resilience, Biodiversity

Area	Short term objectives and long-term ambition	Resources required and KPIs
 <p>Managing Carbon</p>	<p>Guiding principle: We demonstrate sustainable choices in the way we run our school from how we use energy and reduce waste, to how we care for our grounds and resources.</p> <p>Current Picture/Highlights</p> <p>Our carbon footprint (CO₂e) is represented by the emissions associated with the energy used by our school, fuel used by our vehicles and business travel.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Energy surveys and Heat Decarbonisation plans are required to ascertain the investment needed on energy efficiency to achieve our five-year carbon reduction target.</p> <p>KPIs</p> <p>Annual percentage reduction in tCO₂e emitted across our site</p> <p>Annual percentage reduction in the Carbon tCO₂e we emit per pupil</p>

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: **713.91 tonnes co₂e*** per year

Operational area	Emissions area	t co ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	39.7	6%
	Electricity Usage	10.4	1%
	Waste Usage	0.2	<1%
	Water Usage	1.2	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	5.6	<1%
	Student Commutes	188.2	26%
	Staff Commutes	108.1	15%
Food & Drink	Meals	127.4	18%
Purchases	Spending	93.5	13%
	Uniforms	139.6	20%





*'t co₂e' or 'co₂e' tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.



Our short-term objectives and actions

Identify an accurate baseline of our scope 3 emissions during 2024-2025 and identify targets for reduction.

Climate change risks will be included in our risk registers.
We will continue to invest in initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint.




We will actively encourage all staff, pupils, visitors and major partners to reduce their own carbon footprint.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a heat decarbonisation plan alongside the estate management plan. <p>Our long-term ambition</p> <p>To achieve net-zero carbon by 2050 at the latest and sooner if we can</p>	
 <p>Water Management and Efficiency</p> 	<p>Current Picture/Highlights</p> <p>Water is a rapidly dwindling resource</p> <p>Our short-term objectives and actions</p> <p>Establish an accurate baseline of water usage and waste water in 2024-25.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of water efficiency to all staff and students.</p> <p>Collaborate with the Water Wise charity to educate staff and pupils about water efficiency.</p> <p>Integrate water efficiency into all our refurbishment projects.</p> <p>Progressively reduce the volume of water we use per total number of staff and pupils.</p> <p>Arrange for the installation of smart water meters where possible, to facilitate monitoring of water usage and reduction from baseline once established.</p> <p>Our long-term ambition</p> <p>Explore integrating rain/grey water harvesting into all refurbishment projects.</p>	<p>Resources Required:</p> <p>Dedicate a budget line into all major refurbishment projects (where appropriate) to support water efficiency</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <p>Annual percentage reduction in water used (m3) in the school</p> <p>Annual percentage reduction in water used across our school per pupil</p>

<p>Biodiversity</p>  	<p>Current Picture/Highlights</p> <p>Biodiversity maintains a functional and beautiful environment as well as resource for food, shelter, clothing and other materials.</p> <p>The UK government have identified schools as a key area for development of biodiversity, with plans to create a National Education Nature park in process.</p> <p>Discovery Walk is a wonderful space for our pupils to learn about nature and the environment. Children attend forest school sessions with our passionate and qualified Forest School Practitioner.</p> <p>Our community allotment scheme is in the process of being established which will provide opportunities for residents who do not have access to gardens to grow vegetables etc.</p> <p>Our short-term objectives and actions</p> <p>We will identify the number of native tree species across the estate.</p> <p>Continue to choose plants that can support biodiversity</p> <p>Continue to take part in Big Schools Birdwatch</p> <p>Our long-term ambition</p> <p>We will continue to promote the benefits of biodiversity, ecological conservation and enhancement and look for opportunities/projects within school working with pupils, staff and our local communities.</p> <p>We will work with academic partners and wildlife organisations to promote aspiration to green jobs, amongst our pupils.</p>	<p>Resources Required:</p> <p>Dedicated budget line into all major refurbishment projects to support biodiversity enhancement.</p> <p>KPIs:</p> <p>Upkeep and continuous access to Forest school areas and allotments.</p> <p>Restoration of front allotment areas completed.</p>
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‘Lead it’

DfE Requirement: Climate Education

Area	Short term objectives and long-term ambition	Resources required and KPIs
<div data-bbox="203 451 331 592">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 651 331 791">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div data-bbox="203 863 331 1019">  <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> </div> <p>Embedding the role of the Eco Council in the school’s sustainability plan.</p>	<p><i>Guiding principle:</i> We empower children to take action and make a difference in school, at home, and in the wider community, helping them grow into responsible, environmentally aware citizens.</p> <p>Current Picture/Highlights</p> <p>The school has an established Eco Council with pupils taking a leading role in making a difference to the school’s environmental impact.</p> <p>The school has been awarded with the Eco-Schools Green Flag</p> <p>The second-hand school uniform stall is successful in supporting a sustainable approach to purchasing school uniform.</p> <p>Partnership with Ol Moti school via Born Free Foundation</p> <p>Upper Key Stage 2 children have written to local MP regarding environmental concerns</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Budget to support initiatives identified by the Eco Council</p> <p>KPIs</p> <p>Clear evidence of where environmental sustainability has been integrated into the school and community plan.</p>

	<p>Our short-term objectives and actions</p> <p><i>**See The Discovery School Climate Action Plan</i></p> <p>Our long-term ambition</p>	
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