



# St Bernard's Catholic High School Climate Action Plan 2025/2026

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## **St Bernard's Catholic High School**

### **What do we believe?**

As a Catholic school, we encourage our children to:

- Be responsible for themselves and others,
- Respect life in all its forms,
- Look for hope in difficult times or situations,
- Be courageous to stand up for what we believe in.
- Pray for forgiveness for the things that we have done wrong.
- Love one another and the world in which we live.

Therefore, our Sustainability Climate Action Plan for 2025 (and beyond) is bound by these core values as well as our common purpose to ensure all those within our School Community live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) through the promotion and protection of God's World.

In their policy paper *Sustainability and Climate Change: A Strategy for the Education and Children's Services Systems*, the Government set a target for all education settings to have a sustainability lead and a Climate Action Plan in place by 2025.

To align with DfE's *Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy*, a Climate Action Plan should cover at least the four areas:

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

**For more ideas and support, visit:**

[Sustainability Support for Education](#)

[Climate Ambassadors](#)

and join

[National Education Nature Park](#)

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# Climate Action Plan

## 1.Establishing a Baseline

| Responsibility                                                                    | Action                                                                           | Steps                                                                                                                                   | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                     | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                                                                      | Action completed on: |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| School                                                                            | Calculate the school's carbon footprint and identify the main emission sources.  | Use a detailed carbon footprint calculator to assess emissions.                                                                         |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | Free                     | <a href="#">Home - Count Your Carbon</a>                                                                 |                      |
| School                                                                            | Understand your school's energy efficiency by conducting a review of energy use. | Review the Recommendation Report from your Display Energy Certificate (DEC) to understand the school's energy efficiency.               |                          | Headteacher,                                                                 | Free                     | <a href="#">Energy efficiency: guidance for the school and further education college estate - GOV.UK</a> |                      |
| School<br>Where Applicable<br>– Review flood risk map and remove if not required. | Assess the school's climate and pollution risks.                                 | Review the flood risk map and check the air pollution levels around the school to identify the impact of pollution and adverse weather. |                          | Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead.              | Free                     | <a href="#">Flood map for planning - GOV.UK</a><br><br><a href="#">Home - Defra, UK</a>                  |                      |

|        |                                                                                              |                                                                                           |  |                                                                              |      |                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
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| School | Understand the biodiversity on the school's grounds.                                         | Conduct a nature survey of the school's grounds.                                          |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Sustainability Lead.            | Free | <a href="#">Nature Survey   Education Nature Park</a>                                                                                                                           |  |
| School | Assess your curriculum and identify environmental links.                                     | Conduct a curriculum audit and address opportunities to increase environmental knowledge. |  | Headteacher, Sustainability Lead.                                            | Free | <a href="#">Our city, our world Conceptual milestones and key vocabulary</a><br><br><a href="#">Curriculum for a Changing Climate</a><br><br><a href="#">Home - Eco Schools</a> |  |
| School | Identify the means of transport used by students to travel to and from school.               | Conduct the Active Travel audit to understand the opportunities for sustainable options.  |  | Class teachers, Students                                                     | Free | <a href="#">Active Travel Audit</a>                                                                                                                                             |  |
| School | Examine the amount of food waste from school dinners and its contribution to climate change. | Conduct the food waste audit to assess how much food waste is created by school dinners.  |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | Free | <a href="#">Find out exactly how much food your school is wasting   Energy Sparks</a>                                                                                           |  |
| School | Understand your waste.                                                                       | Conduct a bin audit to identify how much and what type of waste the school produces.      |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team,                      | Free | <a href="#">How to do a plastic waste bin audit - Plastic Free July</a>                                                                                                         |  |

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|  |  |  |  | Sustainability Lead. |  |  |  |
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## 2.Decarbonisation

| Responsibility | Action                                            | Steps                                                                                      | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                   | Cost / available funding                                        | Tools and resources | Action completed on: |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Trust / School | Reduce electricity consumption.                   | Install energy-efficient alternatives, e.g., LED lightbulbs and energy-efficient printers. |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Trust Estates Team |                                                                 |                     |                      |
| Trust          | Increase the use of renewable energy.             | Install solar panels.                                                                      |                          | Trust Estates Team                                                         | £££ / <a href="#">Grants and Funding - Solar for Schools UK</a> |                     |                      |
| Trust          | Replace Gas heating with sustainable alternatives | Air Source Heat Pumps                                                                      |                          | Trust Estates Team                                                         | School Condition Allocation Funding                             |                     |                      |
| School / Trust | Reduce heat loss and energy use.                  | Improve the wall insulation.                                                               |                          | Trust Estates Team                                                         | £££ / <a href="#">Salix Finance - Salixfinance.co.uk</a>        |                     |                      |

|                                   |                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |                                                                                           |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
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| School /<br>Support from<br>Trust | Reduce the<br>energy use. | <p>Schedule the heating to turn off thirty minutes before the school closes.</p> <p>Assign students to be 'Energy Monitors' to track and turn off unused devices and lights.</p> <p>Deliver some lessons outside.</p> |  | Headteacher,<br>Finance and<br>Operations<br>Manager, Site<br>team, Trust<br>Estates Team | £££ /<br><a href="#">Available Grants for Schools to support Outdoor Education</a> | <a href="#">Review school heating timings   Energy Sparks</a><br><br><a href="#">Appoint pupil energy monitors in all classes   Energy Sparks</a><br><br><a href="#">Free Outdoor Learning Resources and Useful Links - Teach Outdoors</a> |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

### 3.Adaptation and Resilience

| Responsibility | Action                                                          | Steps                                                                                                                                                                  | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                                       | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                                                                                                                                           | Action completed on: |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| School         | Create emergency response plans to build resilience in schools. | <p>Establish protocols for rapid recovery after climate events.</p> <p>Plan to mitigate risks for vulnerable staff and students, including those with pre-existing</p> |                          | Headteacher,<br>Finance and<br>Operations<br>Manager, Site<br>team,<br>Sustainability<br>Lead. | Free                     | <a href="#">Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK</a><br><br><a href="#">Joint union heatwave protocol  </a> |                      |



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|  |                                                              | health conditions and social vulnerabilities.<br><br>Develop Heatwave protocol.                                         |  |  |                                                                                         | <a href="#">National Education Union</a><br><br><a href="#">Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings – The Education Hub</a> |  |
|  | Increase shaded areas across the playground and school site. | Plant trees and install fabric shade canopies. Involve the school community during the planting and maintenance stages. |  |  | £££ / <a href="#">Grant funding to support tree, hedgerow and orchard establishment</a> |                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

#### 4.Biodiversity

| Responsibility | Action                                   | Steps                                           | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                                                 | Action completed on: |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| School         | Enhance green spaces on the school site. | Plant wildflower and pollinator-friendly areas. |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, |                          | <a href="#">A guide to greening your school / RHS Campaign for School Gardening</a> |                      |

|        |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                                                                              |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
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|        |                                         | <p>Plant native trees.</p> <p>Design a sensory garden for students to engage with nature through all their senses.</p>                                                                 |  | Sustainability Lead.                                                         |                                        | <p><a href="#">Seven simple ways to create a wildlife-friendly garden   Natural History Museum</a></p> <p><a href="#">Plants for a sensory garden / RHS Campaign for School Gardening</a></p> |  |
| School | Invite wildlife to the school grounds.  | <p>Establish a dedicated area for wildlife, installing bird feeders and insect hotels.</p> <p>Consider provided water sources for wildlife</p>                                         |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | <p>£££</p> <p>Depends on a project</p> | <p><a href="#">Encouraging wildlife in your school garden / RHS Campaign for School Gardening</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wildlife Ponds Safety Guidance for Schools.pdf</a></p>                   |  |
| School | Connect students and staff with nature. | <p>Provide opportunities for outdoor learning and increase the time students spend outside.</p> <p>Take part in Big Garden Birdwatch – a garden wildlife survey organised by RSPB.</p> |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | Free                                   | <p><a href="#">Outdoor Learning Resources For Schools - Woodland Trust</a></p> <p><a href="#">Big Garden Birdwatch</a></p>                                                                    |  |

## 5.Climate Education and Green Skills and Careers

| Responsibility | Action                                                                                      | Steps                                                                                                                                                                                           | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                                  | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                                                       | Action completed on: |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Trust / School | Ensure key members of staff have up-to-date knowledge on climate change and sustainability. | <p>Provide professional development on integrating sustainability into the curriculum for department leaders.</p> <p>Offer in-house professional development sessions to all staff members.</p> |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Estates Team | Free                     | <a href="#">Teaching for sustainable futures   IOE - Faculty of Education and Society</a> |                      |

|         |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                              |            |                                                                             |  |
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| School  | Inspire students through education to learn about and take proactive steps in addressing environmental issues. | Invite organisations offering climate-focused workshops.                                                                                                         |  |                                                                              | Free / £££ | <a href="#">Climate Change Education   Climate Ed   UK</a>                  |  |
| Schools | Introduce students to Green Careers opportunities.                                                             | <p>Invite speakers from the companies to present opportunities in the environmental sector.</p> <p>Offer mock interviews for your students where applicable.</p> |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | Free / £££ | <a href="#">Inspiring Careers   Green Up Your Act Workshops for Schools</a> |  |
|         | Enhance students' understanding of climate change by implementing a student-led climate project.               | Encourage students to take ownership of the project, support them throughout, and recognize their achievements.                                                  |  |                                                                              |            |                                                                             |  |

## 6.Sustainable / Active Travel

| Responsibility | Action                                                                                              | Steps                                                                                                                                                               | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                     | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                                                | Action completed on: |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                | Encourage school staff and students to opt for sustainable and more active modes of transportation. | Join accreditation programs such as Modeshift STARS to receive guidance and celebrate the achievements.                                                             |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | Free                     | <a href="#">Education - Modeshift STARS</a>                                        |                      |
|                | Develop infrastructure around the school to encourage students and staff to choose active travel.   | Provide/improve lockable, roofed bike sheds for both students and staff.<br><br>Designate the path for students using bikes to ensure safety on the school grounds. |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. | £££                      | <a href="#">Resources for your active travel school plan - Sustrans.org.uk</a>     |                      |
|                | Develop students' confidence on the roads.                                                          | Provide cycling and pedestrian training for all students.                                                                                                           |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team,                      | Free                     | <a href="#">Cycle Training for Everyone - Deliver Safer Training   Bikeability</a> |                      |

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|  |  |  |  | Sustainability<br>Lead. Teachers . |  |  |  |
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## 7.Food

| Responsibility | Action                                                                                    | Steps                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                                       | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                          | Action completed on: |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                | Encourage plant-based meals to reduce meat consumption.                                   | Introduce a meat-free day, at least once a week.<br><br>Educate students and staff members about the benefits of reducing meat consumption and increasing the number of plant-based foods in your diet. |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider | Free                     | <a href="#">Educators - Meat Free Monday</a> |                      |
|                | Reduce food waste by composting food scraps at school. Use compost in gardening projects. | Obtain compost bins to store compost outside of the school.                                                                                                                                             |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability                         | Free / £££               |                                              |                      |

|  |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                              |  |                                                                                                                                                   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |                                                                       | Tech students about composting.                                                                                                                                                               |  | Lead. Catering Provider                                                      |  |                                                                                                                                                   |  |
|  | Lower your carbon footprint by using vegetables grown at your school. | <p>Run the gardening club and create the vegetable garden on the school's grounds.</p> <p>Design a vegetable plot for each class.</p> <p>Use the products in preparation of school meals.</p> |  | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. |  | <a href="#">RHS Funding Digital Final.pdf</a><br><a href="#">RUNNING A SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB</a><br><a href="#">How to Set up a School Garden</a> |  |

## 8.Waste and Consumption

| Responsibility | Action                                         | Steps                                                                                                              | Expected completion date | Who will make it happen?                                                                       | Cost / available funding | Tools and resources                                   | Action completed on: |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                | Empower recycling opportunities in the school. | Take part in The Green School Project to set up a recycling hub at your school, increase recycling in the area and |                          | Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider | Free / paid              | <a href="#">The Green School Project · TerraCycle</a> |                      |

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|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>raise funds for your school.</p> <p>Ensure that all classrooms have a recycling bin.</p>                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                       |            |                                                                                                                                                         |  |
|  | <p>Increase the school's knowledge of waste, consumption and recycling by running a campaign at school to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- remove single-use plastics</li> <li>- promote recycling, repairing, reusing, and reducing waste</li> </ul> | <p>Replace plastic cutlery with reusable alternatives.</p> <p>Obtain school-branded water bottles and ensure access to fresh drinking water by providing drinking fountains for refills.</p> |  | <p>Headteacher, Finance and Operations Manager, Site team, Sustainability Lead. Catering Provider</p> | Free/ paid | <p><a href="#">Plastic Free July – Be Part of the Plastic Pollution Solution</a></p> <p><a href="#">Circular Economy Guide 2025   Waste Managed</a></p> |  |



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|  | Promote sustainability by organising an event to exchange second-hand uniforms. | Organise a uniform exchange and sale event at school for second-hand uniforms.                   |  | Headteacher, Sustainability Lead.      | Free | <a href="#">How To Set Up A School Uniform Swap Shop - Climate Education</a> |  |
|  | Make sure to minimise the school's contribution to waste production.            | Review the school's procurement policy and incorporate sustainability into purchasing processes. |  | SLT, Finance and Operations, Site team | Free | <a href="#">Factoring sustainability into procurement processes</a>          |  |