



St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School
& Early Years Centre

**Sustainability and Climate
Change Policy**

2026 - 2028

Our Mission Statement

In God's love we learn and grow together

Founded upon Catholic principles of; dignity, solidarity,
the common good and peace,
we aim to inspire and celebrate each child's spiritual,
intellectual, emotional,
physical and creative growth.

In our safe and caring environment, we share strong,
positive relationships with each other as well as the local
community. Learning about each other's lives locally
and the wider world teaches us the value and unique
talents of everyone.

We will achieve our goals by enhancing pupils' self-
esteem, their self-respect, respect for others
and for all of God's creation.



We will learn and grow together



In God's love we learn and grow together

CONTENTS

Section	Page
1. Rationale	4
2. Statement of intent	4
3. Aims	4
4. Legal Basis	5
5. Climate Education	5
6. Climate Action and Sustainability in Action	5
7. Roles and Responsibilities	5
8. Inclusion and Equity	6
9. Monitoring and Review	6

CHANGE LOG

Date	Page number	Description of change(s)	Person responsible

1. Rationale

The Governing Body of St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School recognises that responding to climate change and promoting sustainability are part of our moral, educational and statutory responsibilities.

As governors, we are guided by Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and the Church's call to care for creation, recognising that environmental harm disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable. We are committed to ensuring that the school's response is compassionate, inclusive and realistic, particularly given the social and economic challenges faced by many of our families.

This policy supports governors in fulfilling their strategic role by:

- Providing clear oversight of climate and sustainability education
- Ensuring alignment with statutory duties and national guidance
- Supporting leaders while recognising capacity and resource constraints
- Holding the school accountable for proportionate, values-led action

2. Statement of Intent

St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School recognises climate change and sustainability as moral, social and educational issues. As a Catholic school, we are called to care for God's creation and to act justly for the common good, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable who are most affected by environmental harm.

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and the teaching of the Church, particularly *Laudato Si'*, this policy sets out our commitment to climate awareness, responsible stewardship and sustainable practice in a way that is proportionate, inclusive and realistic for our school community.

Catholic Social Teaching

This policy is rooted in the following CST principles:

- **Care for Creation:** The Earth is God's gift, entrusted to us to protect
- **Human Dignity:** A safe and healthy environment is essential to human flourishing
- **The Common Good:** Environmental responsibility benefits the whole community
- **Solidarity:** We share responsibility locally and globally
- **Preferential Option for the Poor:** Climate action must not disadvantage those experiencing poverty or vulnerability

3. Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Promote care for creation as part of our Catholic ethos
- Educate pupils to understand climate change in an age-appropriate, hopeful and action-focused way
- Reduce the school's environmental impact wherever reasonably practicable
- Support the wellbeing and dignity of all pupils and families
- Ensure our approach reflects legal duties and national guidance

4. Legal Basis

This policy is informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 2002 – duty to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Equality Act 2010 – ensuring fairness and inclusion in policy and practice
- Children and Families Act 2014 – supporting pupils with SEND
- DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2023) – supporting schools to contribute to climate education and action
- Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) – particularly Personal Development and Leadership and Management
- Catholic Education Service (CES) guidance
- Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si'* – care for our common home

5. Climate Education

We are committed to helping pupils:

- Develop an understanding of climate change appropriate to their age and stage
- Explore links between faith, science, justice and responsibility
- Learn through the curriculum, including RE, science, geography and PSHE
- Develop positive attitudes of stewardship, hope and responsibility rather than fear

Teaching will be inclusive and accessible for all pupils, including those with SEND and EAL.

6. Sustainability and Climate in Action

Within our capacity as a small primary school, we will:

- Encourage mindful use of energy, water and resources
- Reduce waste and promote recycling where possible (inc. Pre-loved Uniform Shop)
- Care for our school environment and outdoor spaces
- Make responsible purchasing decisions within budget constraints
- Model simple, achievable actions that pupils can understand and replicate

We recognise that families have differing circumstances and will not place pressure or judgement on home practices.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Approve and review the Climate Change Policy
- Ensure it reflects Catholic values and statutory responsibilities
- Support leaders in taking a realistic, proportionate approach

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

- Provide leadership and oversight of climate-related education and practice
- Ensure alignment with school improvement priorities
- Report to governors on progress where appropriate

Sustainability & Climate Change Leader

- Coordinate school-wide sustainability and climate initiatives
- Support staff with embedding climate education into the curriculum
- Monitor and report progress on actions and targets to SLT and governors
- Liaise with pupils, parents, and community partners to encourage engagement
- Ensure initiatives are inclusive, proportionate, and aligned with Catholic ethos

Staff

- Model care for creation through daily practice
- Embed climate awareness into teaching where appropriate
- Support pupils sensitively and inclusively

Pupils

- Learn about caring for God's creation
- Participate in age-appropriate activities that promote responsibility

Parents and Carers

- Supported as partners in education
- Encouraged, but not expected, to engage in sustainability messages

8. Inclusion and Equity

Our approach to climate change will:

- Be inclusive of all vulnerable children, including those with SEND and EAL
- Recognise the realities of deprivation and financial pressure
- Avoid actions that cause stigma, guilt or exclusion
- Be rooted in compassion, justice and understanding

9. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and Full Governing Body on an annual basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other relevant parties.

Reviewed and ratified by: Full Governing Body

Date of review: 22nd January, 2026

Date of next review: January 2028

Policy Status: Non-Statutory

Policy cycle: Bi-annual