

Itchen Abbas Primary School

Sustainability Policy



Sustainability Lead: Rob Bogan (Headteacher)

Date of Plan: July 2025

Next Review: Date: July 2026

1. Vision and Commitment

Our Sustainability Vision:

At Itchen Abbas Primary School, nestled in the heart of the Hampshire countryside, we are deeply committed to nurturing both our children and the natural world around us. Our vision is to become a leading example of rural sustainability in education by embedding environmental responsibility at the core of our school culture, curriculum, and community, in line with the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

We believe that caring for our planet begins with education. Through hands-on learning, outdoor experiences, and strong community links, we aim to inspire our pupils to become thoughtful stewards of the environment.

By working together - children, staff, families, and the wider community - we will:

- Foster a lifelong respect and appreciation for nature.
- Encourage sustainable travel and healthy lifestyles.
- Reduce our environmental footprint through mindful resource use.
- Cultivate a thriving school garden and wildlife areas for learning and well-being.
- Celebrate and share our sustainability journey with others in Hampshire and beyond.

Together, we will grow a greener future for our school, our community, and our planet.

Key Objectives (2025–2026):

1. Embed Sustainability into the Curriculum

We will integrate environmental education across subjects and year groups, ensuring pupils develop the knowledge, values, and skills needed to care for the planet. Outdoor learning, eco-projects, and real-world problem-solving will form a central part of our teaching.

2. Improve the School's Environmental Footprint

We will reduce our use of energy, water, and single-use materials by adopting eco-friendly practices across the school. This includes increasing recycling, reducing food waste, switching to sustainable supplies, and improving energy efficiency where possible.

3. Enhance Our Natural Environment

We will protect and enhance the school's outdoor spaces to support biodiversity and wellbeing. Pupils will help create and maintain wildlife habitats, grow food in the school garden, and use outdoor learning areas regularly to connect with nature.

4. Engage the Whole School Community

We will involve pupils, families, staff, and local organisations in sustainability initiatives, building a shared sense of responsibility. This includes forming an active Eco Team, hosting community events, and encouraging sustainable transport like walking or cycling to school.

2. Leadership and Management

Action	Responsible	Timeline	Success Criteria
Appoint a Sustainability Lead	Headteacher	Autumn 2025	Lead is in post and trained
Develop and implement a written sustainability plan aligned with the school's vision and curriculum, led by a designated sustainability coordinator (e.g., a staff member or senior leader).	Sustainability Lead	Autumn 2025	A sustainability plan is in place, shared with staff, governors, and parents by September 2025. Progress against the plan is reviewed termly and reported to governors.
Support the creation and ongoing work of an led Eco Team, with a named staff mentor, Governors	SLT	Ongoing	Sustainability is embedded into the School Improvement Plan. Eco Team meets at least once per month and has representation from different groups across the school.

and children, with regular meeting times, and resources to lead school-wide initiatives.

Eco Team leads at least one school-wide initiative or event per term (e.g., litter pick, Walk to School Week, wildlife survey).

Pupils demonstrate increased knowledge and ownership of sustainability projects (measured via pupil voice surveys or presentations).

Explore the feasibility of Solar Panels and new ways to reduce our energy usage – including the replacement of all windows on the building.

Headteacher

From September 2025

Arrange a meeting with Property Services to discuss the feasibility of solar panels and a timeline for window replacements.

3. Curriculum and Education

Action
Develop a Whole-School Outdoor Learning Framework

Responsible
Headteacher

Timeline
Autumn 2025

Success Criteria
A clear outdoor learning framework is completed and shared with all staff by September 2025.

Create a progression map showing how outdoor learning opportunities support the curriculum across all year groups, linked to subjects like science, geography, PSHE, and literacy.

Each class delivers at least one outdoor curriculum-linked session per fortnight.

Teachers report increased pupil engagement and learning impact through regular staff feedback or learning walks.

Provide CPD and Resources for Staff

Class Teachers

Annually

All teaching staff attend at least one outdoor learning CPD session annually.

Invest in staff training and provide practical resources to build confidence and consistency in

Staff confidence in delivering outdoor learning increases

using outdoor environments for high-quality teaching.			(measured via pre/post training surveys).
Ensure climate change is fully implemented in curriculum subjects across the school	Sustainability Lead	Ongoing	Resources (e.g., weatherproof materials, clipboards, outdoor seating) are readily available and in use. Monitoring demonstrates this is taking place and children can discuss their understanding of climate change.
Use the School Grounds for Outdoor Education weekly	Headteacher	Ongoing	Distinct outdoor learning zones are established or improved by summer 2026
Enhance the school site to create stimulating outdoor learning areas (e.g., a wildlife garden & woodland) and ensure they are regularly used to enrich the curriculum.			Pupil work and learning outcomes from outdoor sessions are visible in class displays or books. Pupils can articulate how learning outdoors connects to key curriculum topics (measured through pupil voice).
New Catering Team to provide Meat-Free alternatives and support sustainability	Headteacher & Aspens Catering	Ongoing	Continue to work together on sustainability and new initiatives.
Work alongside new JRSOs in 2025-26 to promote walking to school and other initiatives to improve air quality and fitness.	Headteacher	Ongoing	Continue to work together on sustainability and new initiatives.

4. Biodiversity and Nature

Action	Responsible	Timeline	Success Criteria
Joint and be part of the National Outdoor Learning Award Scheme	Sustainability Lead	Autumn 2025	Registration completed

New Woodland Trees planted on the school field.	Headteacher & Parents	Ongoing	Grounds maintained and valued throughout the year.
Run termly litter- volunteer days to maintain the grounds	Headteacher & Parents	Ongoing	Grounds maintained and valued throughout the year.

5. Community Engagement

Action	Responsible	Timeline	Success Criteria
Work with local climate groups	Sustainability Lead	Ongoing	Partnership in place
Continue to publicise a clothes bin for recycling clothes in the front car part amongst the community	Headteacher	Ongoing	Shared on Social Media, School Website and in Local news articles.
Publish, at least half termly, Outdoor Learning information for Parents.	Headteacher	Ongoing	Shared on school website

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Plan reviewed termly by SLT.
- Progress reported to governors yearly.
- Use pupil and staff surveys to assess impact.