



Brougham Street Community Nursery School Climate Action Plan

Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2024, p 9) “foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world”. Environmental- Make links to Specific Area “Understanding the World” The Natural World. For example, “Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter” (EYFS, DfE, 2024, p 15)

Priority 1: Climate Education and Green Careers Our nursery is dedicated to teaching children about climate awareness and sustainability from an early age. We want every child to learn about the changing climate in ways that are engaging, age-appropriate, and empowering. Through enriched learning experiences, we will help them explore sustainability and develop interests that can grow into lifelong learning and future green opportunities.

Area of Development (Why?)

To embed Forest School practice within our curriculum, ensuring children have regular opportunities for hands-on learning in natural environments.

To integrate our allotment more purposefully into curriculum planning, enabling children to learn about growing, food cycles, and caring for the natural world.

To deepen staff understanding of climate change, so we can confidently and accurately share knowledge with children in age-appropriate ways.

To increase opportunities for STEM learning, supporting children's early curiosity, problem-solving skills, and understanding of how science and technology relate to sustainability.

To plan more activities focused on nature and the natural world, helping children develop appreciation, respect, and early stewardship for their environment.

Intervention (What?)

Introduce age-appropriate Forest School-inspired sessions across babies, toddlers, and nursery classes, focusing on sensory exploration, outdoor play, and early connections with nature.

Develop simple, hands-on allotment experiences for all age groups, such as sensory planting for babies, watering and caring for plants with toddlers, and early growing and harvesting activities for nursery-aged children.

Provide staff training on early-years climate education, ensuring adults feel confident sharing simple, accurate, age-appropriate messages about caring for the world.

Create enriched, playful STEM experiences linked to children's natural curiosity—such as exploring water, light, building, early problem-solving, and observing how things grow or change.

Plan nature-based learning opportunities that allow children to explore the seasons, wildlife, natural materials, and the immediate environment through play, investigation, and stories.

Implementation (How?)

Expand Forest School capacity Schedule weekly Forest School-inspired outdoor sessions led by the current Forest School Leader.

Identify staff members to begin Forest School training and support them to work alongside the leader, gradually increasing confidence and skill levels.

Incorporate simple outdoor exploration activities into daily routines so all children can access nature-based learning, even outside formal Forest School sessions.

Embed allotment learning into everyday practice Create a seasonal planting plan so each age group has opportunities to plant, water, observe and harvest.

Allocate specific times each week for babies, toddlers and nursery children to visit and engage with the allotment, supported by familiar staff.

Involve children in caring for the allotment by encouraging simple tasks such as watering, touching herbs, observing insects, and exploring textures.

Strengthen staff knowledge of early-years climate education Provide staff with short, regular CPD sessions on climate awareness, sustainability, and early-years approaches to environmental learning.

Share simple key messages, visuals and age-appropriate language for staff to use when talking to children about caring for the world.

Develop a shared bank of resources (books, stories, songs, provocations, and loose parts) that promote environmental awareness.

Increase playful STEM learning opportunities Plan STEM provocations and enhancements tailored to each age group, such as water flow, ramps, shadows, magnifying activities, and simple construction.

Encourage practitioners to use open-ended questions that promote curiosity and problem-solving.

Link STEM activities to real-world themes such as weather, growth, materials, and living things.

Enhance nature-based experiences across the curriculum Ensure that long-term and short-term planning continues to include regular nature walks, seasonal observation activities, and sensory exploration outdoors for all age groups—including babies.

Use stories, songs, and small-world play to help children understand the natural world in age-appropriate ways.

Create inviting outdoor and indoor learning spaces using natural materials, loose parts, plants and representations of wildlife.

Outcomes

For Children

Children will develop early awareness of the natural world, climate, and sustainability through hands-on, age-appropriate experiences.

Children will become more confident explorers outdoors, showing curiosity, problem-solving skills, and engagement in STEM activities.

Babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers will build early foundations for future green skills through sensory play, caretaking of plants, and observing change in nature.

Children will show increased independence, resilience, and wellbeing through regular outdoor learning and Forest School-inspired activities.

For Staff

Staff will feel more confident and knowledgeable in delivering climate education and sustainability messages in age-appropriate ways.

More staff will be trained or working towards Forest School qualifications/Outdoor qualifications increasing the Nursery school's capacity to deliver high-quality outdoor learning.

Staff will embed environmental learning, STEM opportunities, and nature-based experiences into daily practice and curriculum planning.

Staff will work collaboratively to develop a shared understanding and consistent approach to sustainability across the nursery.

For Parents and Carers Parents and carers will better understand the nursery's approach to climate education and sustainability.

Families will be encouraged and supported to take part in simple sustainable activities at home, strengthening eco-friendly habits.

Home–nursery school relationships will grow stronger through shared projects, communication, and involvement with outdoor and allotment activities.

For Governors Governors will have clear evidence of progress in developing climate education and sustainability across the nursery.

Governors will feel confident that staff training, resources, and curriculum practices are moving in the right direction.

The Governing Body will be well-placed to support and plan for long-term sustainability goals within the nursery community.





Brougham Street Community Nursery School Climate Action Plan

Priority 2: Decarbonisation We are committed to reducing our nursery's energy use and carbon footprint by embedding simple, everyday practices into our routines. Through raising awareness and encouraging everyone—staff and children alike—to switch off lights and unplug devices when not in use, we aim to foster a culture of energy-conscious behaviours that benefit both the environment and our community.

Area of Development (Why?)

Increasing energy efficiency across the nursery by looking in to using LED lighting, turning off lights and electrical equipment when not in use, and managing heating more effectively.

Promoting outdoor learning and seasonal energy awareness, encouraging appropriate clothing for children and staff, reducing reliance on heating appliances, and maintaining comfortable, safe indoor temperatures.

Reducing waste and improving recycling practices, with children actively involved in understanding and supporting sustainable habits.

Monitoring and reducing carbon emissions from travel, encouraging walking or active travel to nursery, participating in initiatives such as Walk to School Week, and sharing information with families to support sustainable journeys.

Sourcing environmentally friendly cleaning products to reduce the nursery's chemical footprint and support a healthier, more sustainable environment for children and staff.

Intervention (What?)

Energy efficiency

Look in to replacing any remaining non-LED bulbs with LED lighting where possible.

Encourage staff and children to switch off lights when leaving a room and turn off unused electrical equipment.

Ensure doors are closed in areas with automatic lighting to prevent energy waste.

Heating and outdoor learning

Continue to prioritise outdoor learning sessions wherever possible.

Adjust indoor heating to recommended safe temperatures according to the season.

Encourage children and staff to wear suitable clothing and uniforms, including fleece jackets (provided to all staff members), to reduce unnecessary heating use.

Waste reduction and recycling

Provide clear recycling points and involve children in sorting waste.

Plan regular, simple activities that teach children about reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Reducing travel-related carbon emissions

Encourage families and staff to walk, cycle, or use sustainable travel to the nursery.

Bike park frame to be installed to allow bikes to be safely stored.

Participate annually in Walk to School Week, promoting active travel and sustainability awareness.

Environmentally friendly cleaning products

Research and source low-impact, eco-friendly cleaning products.

Gradually replace conventional cleaning products with environmentally safe alternatives.

Ensure all staff are aware of the safe and correct use of these products to maintain a healthy nursery environment.

Implementation (How?)

Energy efficiency

Include reminders in daily routines for staff and children to switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.

Assign staff "energy champions" to monitor and support energy-saving practices across the nursery.

Check lighting, heating, and electrical points regularly to ensure energy-efficient use is maintained.

Heating and outdoor learning

Plan daily activities to maximise outdoor learning, reducing the need for indoor heating.

Display safe temperature guidelines in each room and ensure staff follow seasonal heating adjustments.

Encourage children and staff to dress appropriately for the weather, including using fleece jackets and layering, so heating is minimised when possible.

Waste reduction and recycling

Incorporate simple, age-appropriate activities for children to learn about reducing waste and recycling.

Ensure recycling bins are clearly labelled and accessible for both children and staff.

Review waste practices regularly and involve children in monitoring improvements.

Reducing travel-related carbon emissions

Monitor and record children's and staff travel methods to nursery during walk to school week.

Promote walking, cycling, and car-sharing through newsletters, posters, and workshops with parents.

Organise and participate in Walk to School Week and other sustainable travel initiatives.

Environmentally friendly cleaning products

Trial and gradually replace conventional cleaning products with eco-friendly alternatives.

Provide staff training on safe use and storage of new products.

Regularly review product effectiveness and environmental impact, ensuring consistency in cleaning routines.

Outcomes

For Children

Children will develop awareness of energy use, recycling, and sustainable practices through age-appropriate activities.

Children will learn simple habits, such as switching off lights and caring for their environment, fostering responsibility and early environmental stewardship.

Children will experience the benefits of outdoor learning and reduced reliance on indoor heating, promoting wellbeing and comfort in all seasons.

For Staff

Staff will feel confident and empowered to model and embed energy-saving and sustainable practices across the nursery.

Staff will have increased understanding of eco-friendly cleaning products, safe usage, and environmental impact.

Staff will be actively involved in monitoring and improving energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable travel initiatives.

For Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will understand the nursery's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices.

Families will be encouraged and supported to adopt simple eco-friendly habits at home, including walking or cycling to nursery.

Parents will be engaged through communication, participation in initiatives such as Walk to School Week, and updates on children's learning about sustainability.

For Governors

Governors will have clear oversight of the nursery's progress in reducing energy use, carbon emissions, and environmental impact.

Governors will be confident that strategies for energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable travel are being implemented effectively.

Governors will support long-term planning and decision-making to embed sustainability across the nursery.





Brougham Street Community Nursery School Climate Action Plan

Priority 3: Improving the Environment and Biodiversity We are committed to enhancing our nursery's outdoor environment to support biodiversity and give children hands-on experiences with nature. Through developing and maintaining our nursery garden and allotment plot, children will learn about growing their own food, explore plant life cycles, and develop an early understanding of caring for the environment. This approach encourages curiosity, responsibility, and a lifelong appreciation of nature.

Area of Development (Why?)

Teaching children about the natural world

Make the most of our green, nature-rich surroundings through Forest School and allotment activities, helping children learn about plants, animals, and their habitats.

Composting and waste management

Develop a designated composting area for small gardening waste, involving children in collecting and composting organic materials as part of their hands-on learning.

Supporting local wildlife

Extend bird-feeding activities to include fruit and vegetable leftovers, while continuing curriculum-based bird watching and feeder-making activities.

Maintain bee hydration stations and continue teaching children about bees and other pollinators.

Life cycles and biodiversity

Continue butterfly-rearing projects and other activities that allow children to observe life cycles and understand growth and transformation in nature (Tadpoles)

Explore local water habitats, such as the river and waterfall in Forest School, to learn about aquatic life.

Gardening and planting

Use collected seeds (only if safe to do so bearing in mind we are a nut free nursery and have children with allergies), recycled plant pots, and other sustainable methods to grow plants and flowers.

Maintain traditions such as the yearly sunflower challenge, encouraging children to care for their plants both at nursery and at home over the summer.

Intervention (What?)

Teaching children about the natural world

Plan regular Forest School and allotment sessions that explore plants, animals, and local habitats.

Use stories, songs, and hands-on activities to help children understand nature and biodiversity in age-appropriate ways.

Composting and waste management

Establish a designated composting area for small gardening waste.

Involve children in collecting organic material and adding it to the compost, teaching them about decomposition and recycling nutrients naturally.

Supporting local wildlife

Continue bird-watching and feeder-making activities, adding fruit and vegetable leftovers as safe bird food.

Maintain and monitor bee hydration stations, teaching children how bees and other pollinators support biodiversity.

Life cycles and biodiversity

Continue butterfly-rearing projects, encouraging children to observe and document life cycles.

Organise activities around water habitats in Forest School, exploring aquatic life and discussing ecosystems.

Gardening and planting

Encourage children to plant seeds, flowers, and vegetables using recycled plant pots and other sustainable materials.

Maintain traditions such as the yearly sunflower challenge, involving children in caring for plants both at nursery and at home.

Use seasonal planting projects to link nature learning with observation, curiosity, and responsibility for the environment

Implementation (How?)

Teaching children about the natural world Plan regular Forest School and allotment sessions, ensuring activities are age-appropriate for babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers.

Use sensory experiences such as touching leaves, smelling flowers, listening to birds, and exploring soil to engage all age groups.

Incorporate storytelling, songs, and discussion to help children connect with nature.

Composting and waste management Set up a clearly designated composting area and involve children in adding small, safe organic waste.

Introduce simple, supervised tasks for toddlers and pre-schoolers, such as turning the compost or adding fruit peelings.

Use visuals and discussions to help children understand what happens to waste in nature.

Supporting local wildlife Maintain bird feeders and encourage children to help fill them with suitable food, including fruit and vegetable scraps.

Monitor and maintain bee hydration stations, involving children in refilling and observing bee activity.

Include wildlife-focused activities in the curriculum, such as counting birds or observing insects, linked to curiosity and problem-solving.

Life cycles and biodiversity Continue butterfly-rearing and other life-cycle projects, encouraging children to observe, draw, and discuss changes.

Plan Forest School activities around water habitats, including safe exploration and observation of aquatic life.

Encourage reflection and discussion about what children see, fostering early scientific thinking.

Gardening and planting Plan seasonal planting activities using seeds, recycled pots, and sustainable materials.

Support children to care for plants daily, including watering, weeding, and observing growth.

Continue annual projects like the sunflower challenge, engaging families to nurture plants at home.

Rotate responsibilities across age groups so even the youngest children can take part in simple gardening tasks.

Outcomes

For Children

Children will develop an early appreciation and understanding of nature, biodiversity, and life cycles.

Children will gain hands-on experience with planting, gardening, composting, and caring for wildlife, fostering curiosity, responsibility, and observation skills.

Children will benefit from regular outdoor learning, improving wellbeing, confidence, and connection with the natural world.

For Staff

Staff will have increased confidence and knowledge in delivering environmental and biodiversity-based activities.

Staff will develop skills in maintaining garden, allotment, and wildlife areas while embedding these into the curriculum.

Staff will be able to integrate sustainability and biodiversity learning into everyday practice across all age groups.

For Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will understand and support the nursery's commitment to environmental education and biodiversity.

Families will be encouraged to engage in gardening, composting, and wildlife activities at home, strengthening eco-friendly habits.

Parents will feel involved through shared projects, updates, and participation in seasonal initiatives such as the sunflower challenge.

For Governors

Governors will have clear evidence of the nursery's progress in improving the environment, biodiversity, and outdoor learning provision.

Governors will be confident that sustainability, biodiversity, and hands-on environmental learning are embedded across the nursery curriculum.

Governors will support long-term planning for environmental initiatives, ensuring continued improvement and impact on children and the wider nursery community.





Brougham Street Community Nursery School Climate Action Plan

Priority 4: Climate Adaptation and Resilience – Reducing the Risk of Impact from Climate Change We are committed to taking proactive steps to minimise the potential impact of climate change on our nursery, children, staff, and wider community. By assessing risks, planning for extreme weather events, and developing resilience strategies, we aim to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and continuity of learning for everyone in our nursery. This approach also helps children understand the importance of preparedness and encourages a culture of responsibility and adaptability.

Area of Development (Why?)

Teaching children about the world around them Use Forest School, the allotment and age-appropriate stories to develop children's understanding of the environment, nature, and the wider world.

Provide hands-on experiences such as planting, nurturing seedlings, and exploring science experiments to build knowledge and curiosity.

Spending time in nature every day Encourage free-flow outdoor learning in our nature-rich outdoor provision to foster a connection with the natural environment.

Promote physical and emotional wellbeing through regular engagement with outdoor spaces.

Protecting wildlife in the garden and local community Maintain bird feeders, mini-beast sanctuaries, and bee hydration stations.

Encourage children to observe, care for, and learn about local wildlife and their habitats.

Teaching children about the wider environment and community

Through play and structured learning, help children understand the importance of their local community and its connection to the environment.

Encourage discussions about sustainability, conservation, and environmental responsibility.

Environmentally friendly routines Implement clear recycling and waste management practices, including labelled bins and returning lunchtime packaging home.

Promote good hygiene and care for the environment through regular handwashing, tidying routines, and responsible play practices.

Encourage children to reduce food waste by taking only what they will eat.

Water conservation and management Teach children to use water responsibly, turning off taps and understanding it as a precious resource.

Use rainwater collection for water play, plant watering, and cleaning outdoor equipment.

Ensure water play activities are mindful of conservation, and embed learning about reducing water wastage through playful, hands-on experiences.

Intervention (What?)

Teaching children about the world around them

Integrate Forest School and gardening club activities that explore nature, seasons, plant growth, and local wildlife.

Use stories, songs, and hands-on experiments to teach children about the environment, weather patterns, and climate-related changes in an age-appropriate way.

Spending time in nature every day

Encourage free-flow outdoor play across all age groups to build resilience and adaptability to different weather conditions.

Plan outdoor learning experiences linked to environmental themes, such as observing seasonal changes or exploring habitats.

Protecting wildlife

Maintain and enhance bird feeders, mini-beast sanctuaries, and bee hydration stations.

Involve children in monitoring and caring for wildlife, linking activities to environmental education and local biodiversity.

Promoting environmentally friendly routines

Embed recycling and waste reduction into daily routines, including sorting materials, returning lunchtime packaging home, and using resources responsibly.

Encourage children to participate in tidying, cleaning, and sustainable practices as part of their daily routines.

Water conservation and management

Teach children to turn off taps and use water responsibly during handwashing, water play, and gardening activities.

Collect and reuse rainwater for play and plant watering, explaining the process to children in simple, practical ways.

Minimise water waste during activities, using visual prompts and discussion to reinforce learning about sustainability.

Building climate resilience awareness

Plan activities that introduce children to the concept of being prepared for different weather conditions (e.g., dressing appropriately, safe outdoor exploration).

Encourage discussion and curiosity about changes in weather, seasonal effects, and the wider impact on nature and the local community.

Implementation (How?)

Teaching children about the world around them Plan regular Forest School sessions and gardening activities, ensuring tasks are developmentally appropriate (e.g., sensory planting for babies, simple gardening duties for toddlers, and more detailed observations for pre-schoolers).

Use age-appropriate stories, songs, and visuals to explore themes such as weather, habitats, growing cycles, and caring for the planet.

Provide hands-on opportunities such as planting seeds, investigating soil, and exploring natural materials.

Spending time in nature every day Ensure free-flow access to outdoor spaces as part of daily routines, adapting activities to the weather while maintaining safety and comfort.

Set up outdoor learning invitations each day—such as nature scavenger hunts, seasonal observation boards, or sensory garden areas.

Support children in dressing appropriately for changing weather, promoting independence and resilience.

Protecting wildlife Involve children in maintaining bird feeders, filling bee hydration stations, and checking mini-beast sanctuaries as part of weekly routines.

Use observation charts, photos, and discussions to help children notice changes and patterns in local wildlife activity.

Plan simple wildlife-focused projects, such as building bug hotels or creating safe garden spaces for insects.

Promoting environmentally friendly routines Position clearly labelled recycling bins at child level and teach children how to sort materials through modelling and practice.

Reinforce hygiene routines with visual prompts, songs, and adult modelling, discussing why clean and safe environments are important.

Support children to take just enough food at snack time to reduce waste.

Water conservation and management Teach children to turn taps off properly after washing hands, using gentle reminders and visual cues.

Collect rainwater in child-safe containers for water play, watering plants, and cleaning outdoor resources.

Reuse water safely whenever possible to model practical water-saving behaviours.

Building climate resilience awareness Use daily weather discussions to help children understand changing conditions and prepare for safe outdoor play.

Encourage independence in choosing appropriate clothing by having accessible outdoor wear areas.

Embed conversations about looking after the local environment and responding to changes, helping children develop early resilience and responsibility.

Outcomes

For Children

Children will develop an early understanding of weather, nature, and how to care for their environment, building confidence and curiosity about the world.

Children will become more resilient and adaptable by spending time outdoors in varied weather and learning how to prepare for different conditions.

Children will learn responsible habits such as recycling, conserving water, reducing waste, and caring for wildlife, forming strong foundations for lifelong sustainability.

For Staff

Staff will feel confident embedding climate resilience activities into daily routines, outdoor learning, and curriculum planning.

Staff will develop a deeper understanding of environmental education, water management, biodiversity, and sustainable nursery practices.

Staff will consistently model positive environmental behaviours, supporting a culture of awareness and responsibility across the setting.

For Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will gain a better understanding of how the nursery promotes climate resilience and sustainability.

Families will feel encouraged to adopt eco-friendly routines at home, such as water-saving, recycling, and spending time in nature.

Parents will be engaged through communication, shared projects (like gardening or wildlife activities), and opportunities to build resilience together with their children.

For Governors

Governors will have clear evidence of the nursery's commitment to climate resilience and reducing the risk of climate-related impacts.

Governors will be able to monitor progress in sustainability, biodiversity, and outdoor learning practices.

The Governing Body will be well placed to support long-term planning and investment that strengthens resilience and environmental education across the nursery community.

