



Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School

Climate Action Plan 2026-2029

Our Vision

At Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School, we believe that caring for God's creation is a shared responsibility. We aim to nurture environmentally aware, compassionate and active citizens who understand the challenges facing our world and are empowered to make a positive difference.

Our Climate Action Plan builds upon our existing strengths, including Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction, Tree Guardians, Chough Champions, Birdwatching Club and our strong community partnerships. Through education, stewardship and action, we will continue to improve our school environment whilst preparing our pupils to become future leaders of sustainability.

Priority 1: Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Why this matters:

Climate change is already affecting the UK through increased temperatures, extreme rainfall events and changing weather patterns. Pupils need access to outdoor spaces that remain usable and beneficial throughout the year.

Current strengths

- Spiritual garden
- Outdoor learning opportunities
- Forest School trained staff
- Nature-based curriculum experiences

Actions 2026-2029

Action	Timescale
Develop additional shaded outdoor learning areas through tree and willow planting	2026-2027
Establish a dedicated outdoor reading and reflection space	2027
Increase use of drought-resistant native planting	2026-2028
Incorporate climate resilience into site development decisions	Ongoing
Explore rainwater collection for gardening projects	2027-2028

Success Indicators

- Outdoor learning opportunities available throughout the year.
- Increased pupil use of outdoor spaces.
- Improved shade and shelter provision.
- Greater understanding of climate resilience among pupils.

Priority 2: Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

Why this matters:

Healthy ecosystems improve biodiversity, support pollinators and provide rich learning opportunities for children.

Current strengths

- Chough Champions
- Tree Guardians
- Pupil led Birdwatching Club
- Wilder Kent Award
- Woodland Trust Gold Award
- Pollinator-friendly areas
- Community conservation partnerships

Actions 2026-2029

Action	Timescale
Undertake annual biodiversity surveys	Annually
Increase native planting across the site	Ongoing
Maintain and develop pollinator habitats	Ongoing
Expand opportunities for citizen science projects	Annually
Develop additional habitats for birds, insects and small mammals	2026-2028
Continue Tree Guardians and Chough Champions programmes	Annually

Success Indicators

- Annual biodiversity records show increasing species diversity.
- Every pupil participates in at least one conservation project each year.
- Increased numbers of pupils engaged in environmental leadership activities.
- Positive feedback from community partners.

Priority 3: Climate Education and Green Skills

Why this matters:

Children need knowledge, skills and hope to respond positively to environmental challenges.

Current strengths

- Sustainability themes embedded within curriculum topics.
- Environmental leadership opportunities.
- Strong links with local organisations and experts.

Actions 2026-2029

Action	Timescale
Map climate and sustainability learning across the curriculum	2026
Ensure every year group undertakes at least one environmental action project annually	Ongoing
Continue participation in environmental competitions and campaigns	Annually
Promote green careers through visitors and workshops	Annually
Develop pupil leadership through Eco Team, Tree Guardians and Chough Champions	Ongoing

Success Indicators

- Sustainability is evident across curriculum plans.
- Pupils demonstrate growing environmental knowledge.
- All pupils participate in environmental action projects.
- Increased awareness of green career pathways.

Priority 4: Reducing Environmental Impact

Why this matters:

Reducing waste, conserving resources and encouraging sustainable behaviours contributes to a healthier environment and supports national carbon reduction ambitions.

Current strengths

- E-Waste Warriors
- Team Repair participation
- Active travel promotion
- Sustainable purchasing where possible

Actions 2026-2029

Action	Timescale
Monitor energy usage annually and identify opportunities for reduction	Annually
Promote simple energy-saving behaviours across school	Ongoing
Reduce paper usage through increased digital communication	Ongoing
Continue recycling and reuse initiatives	Ongoing
Promote walking, scooting and cycling to school	Annually
Seek funding opportunities to improve sustainability infrastructure	Ongoing

Success Indicators

- Reduction in paper consumption.
- Increased participation in active travel initiatives.

- Sustained participation in recycling and repair projects.
- Successful sustainability grant applications.

Leadership and Monitoring

The Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually by:

- Sustainability Lead
- Headteacher
- Governing Body
- Pupil Environmental Leaders

Progress will be monitored through:

- Biodiversity surveys
- Pupil voice
- Eco-Schools assessments
- Energy and resource monitoring
- Annual governor reports

Intended Impact by 2029

Temple Ewell pupils will leave our school with:

- A strong understanding of environmental responsibility.
- Practical experience of improving their local environment.
- Leadership skills developed through real-world action.
- Hope and confidence that positive change is possible.

The school environment will demonstrate measurable improvements in biodiversity, outdoor learning opportunities and sustainable practice whilst continuing to serve as a valued resource for the wider community.

Appendix 1

Sustainability and Climate Action Achievements

Our Journey So Far:

Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School is committed to caring for God's creation through meaningful environmental education, pupil leadership and community action.

This Climate Action Plan builds upon a strong foundation of environmental achievements, conservation projects and partnerships that have enabled pupils to become active participants in protecting and enhancing the natural world.

Awards and Recognition

Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction

The school has achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction, recognising excellence in environmental education and sustainable practice.

Wilder Kent Award

The school has been recognised through the Wilder Kent Award for its commitment to biodiversity and nature recovery.

Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Gold Award

Awarded in recognition of the school's ongoing commitment to tree planting, outdoor learning and environmental stewardship.

Dover District Council REACH Green Organisation of the Year (2025)

Recognising the school's commitment to environmental sustainability and community action.

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

Chough Champions

Working in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust, pupils have:

- Studied the ecology and conservation of the red-billed chough.
- Participated in conservation-focused learning activities.
- Contributed to awareness raising within the local community.
- Worked with professional filmmakers to create a documentary highlighting conservation efforts.

This project has enabled pupils to develop a deeper understanding of species recovery, habitat protection and environmental advocacy.

Tree Guardians

Pupils have:

- Surveyed and identified trees within the local churchyard.
- Explored the ecological, historical and cultural significance of trees.
- Shared their learning with the wider community.
- Developed practical fieldwork and environmental monitoring skills.

Birdwatching Club

Pupils regularly:

- Observe and identify local bird species.
- Participate in citizen science projects.
- Monitor wildlife visiting the school grounds.
- Develop an appreciation of local biodiversity.

Habitat Creation

The school continues to enhance biodiversity through:

- Pollinator-friendly planting.
- Wildflower areas.
- Bird feeding stations.
- Bug hotels and invertebrate habitats.
- Native planting projects.

Pupil Leadership and Environmental Advocacy

Temple Ewell believes that children should be active leaders of environmental change.

Pupils have opportunities to lead, influence and participate through:

- Chough Champions.
- Tree Guardians.
- Eco-Schools activities.
- Birdwatching Club.
- Nature Club.
- Environmental campaigns and awareness projects.

Community Environmental Leadership

Pupils have taken part in:

- Local litter-picking initiatives.
- Community conservation activities.
- Wildlife awareness campaigns.
- Environmental improvement projects.

A Temple Ewell pupil was nominated for Dover District Council's Junior Litter Picker of the Year Award in recognition of their commitment to improving the local environment and inspiring others to take positive action.

These experiences help pupils understand that individual actions can contribute to wider environmental change.

Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

E-Waste Warriors

Pupils participated in the national E-Waste Warriors initiative, helping to:

- Collect and recycle unwanted electrical items.
- Reduce electronic waste.
- Promote responsible recycling practices.

The school achieved a collection rate of 1.27kg of electronic waste per pupil.

Team Repair

Pupils explored:

- Repair and reuse skills.
- Product lifecycles.
- Waste reduction.
- Sustainable consumption.

These experiences support understanding of the circular economy and responsible use of resources.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning forms an important part of school life.

Pupils regularly engage in:

- Nature-based learning.
- Environmental fieldwork.
- Habitat surveys.
- Conservation projects.
- Community action initiatives.

These experiences develop resilience, curiosity, wellbeing and a strong connection with nature.

Community Partnerships

The school works alongside a range of organisations to support environmental learning and action, including:

- Kent Wildlife Trust.
- Dover District Council.
- Temple Ewell Parish Council.
- St Peter and St Paul Church.
- Local environmental and conservation groups.

These partnerships provide authentic opportunities for pupils to engage with real-world environmental issues and contribute positively to their community.

Looking Forward

The achievements outlined above provide a strong foundation for the school's Climate Action Plan.

Through continued collaboration, pupil leadership and environmental stewardship, Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School will continue to develop as a school where sustainability is embedded within learning, leadership and community life.