



Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

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Thursday 16th October 2025

❖ Dear Parents and Carers, ❖

At Churchside Federation, we believe that education is a lifelong journey — one that shapes not only what our children know, but who they become. Part of this journey is helping our pupils to grow into responsible, compassionate, and environmentally aware young people who care deeply for the world around them.

With this in mind, we are delighted to share our new Sustainability Plan (the actual larger document will be available on our website next half term), which sets out how we will continue to build on our commitment to caring for God's creation and protecting our environment for future generations.

Our plan brings together a range of actions across our schools, including:

❖ Biodiversity projects such as rewilding areas of our school grounds, planting pollinator-friendly flowers, and developing our pond habitats.

💡 Energy and water saving initiatives, where children will take an active role in reducing waste and promoting responsible use of resources.

♻️ Waste reduction and recycling drives, including “No Paper Weeks” and “Reuse, Repurpose, Renew” challenges.

🚶 Active travel encouragement, supporting children and families to walk, cycle, or scoot to school where possible.

📖 Curriculum links that embed sustainability in everyday learning — from science and geography to art, design, and philosophy.

🌐 Community partnerships with local and national organisations such as the RSPB, WWF, and The Wildlife Trusts, helping our pupils understand and take action on real-world environmental issues.

A key part of our sustainability journey is rewilding areas of our school grounds to help children connect with nature and learn about the delicate balance of ecosystems. We are very excited to share that our Friends of the School are helping us to raise money for a new standing pond, which will provide fantastic opportunities for pond dipping, outdoor science, and hands-on learning about habitats and wildlife. This space will become a living classroom — a place where curiosity, care, and discovery come together.

Alongside this, we are looking to develop and revitalise the vegetable patches at both schools. If any parents, grandparents, or family members would like to help us revamp these areas or work alongside small groups of children, we would be incredibly grateful. Whether it's digging, planting, or sharing your gardening skills, your support will help bring our sustainability plans to life.

We are also excited to announce our upcoming "Repurpose and Renew Days." During these days, children will learn valuable life skills such as mending, fixing, sewing, and repairing everyday items, encouraging creativity and a sense of responsibility for the things we use. If you have a particular skill in sewing, crafting, or repairing and would be willing to share it with the children, we would love to hear from you. Your time and expertise could inspire a whole new generation of resourceful makers!

We know that true sustainability is about teamwork — and our whole school community has a role to play. Over the coming months, you'll see more pupil-led projects, themed weeks, and opportunities for families to get involved, whether through volunteering, donating materials, or simply joining in with our green challenges at home.

We'll continue to share our progress through newsletters, assemblies, and our school website, celebrating the wonderful ways our children are helping to make a difference. Together, we can nurture a love of the natural world and inspire the next generation of stewards for our planet.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm — we can't wait to see where this journey takes us next.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Godbold', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Godbold

Executive Headteacher