



Mundford



Sustainability at Churchside



Gooderstone

At Churchside, sustainability is woven through everything we do. Rooted in our belief that education is a lifelong journey, we aim to nurture children who not only achieve academically but also grow into responsible, compassionate global citizens. Our rural Norfolk settings provide daily opportunities for children to connect with and care for the natural world, developing a deep respect and curiosity for God's creation.

Through our enquiry-based approach, children learn to ask thoughtful questions about the world around them — how things grow, how resources are used, and how their actions can make a difference. We encourage them to explore sustainable choices, from reducing waste and protecting wildlife to understanding global environmental issues.

Sustainability is not a separate subject, but a thread that runs through our creative and purposeful curriculum. From outdoor learning and community projects to our "no plan days" and pupil-led initiatives, children take an active role in shaping a greener future. By inspiring curiosity, responsibility, and action, we hope to empower every child to see themselves as stewards of both their local environment and the wider world.

1. Vision and Aims

Vision Statement:

At Churchside, our vision is to nurture environmentally responsible, curious, and compassionate learners who understand their role in caring for God's creation. We aim to create a sustainable school environment that inspires children to explore, protect, and enhance the natural world around them. Through creative, purposeful, and enquiry-based learning, we encourage every child to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits that empower them to make positive, sustainable choices locally and globally, now and in the future.

Key Aims:

Key Aims	Linked Focus Areas	How It Connects (inc school events & initiatives)
Develop biodiversity on the school grounds through projects such as creating a pond, rewilding areas, and supporting pollinators.	Biodiversity & Grounds; Curriculum & Learning; Community & Partnerships	Children plan and plant pollinator-friendly gardens, create a wildlife pond, and take part in rewilding and bug hotel projects. These activities link to science and geography topics, supported by local wildlife groups and community days.
Reduce paper use by implementing "No Paper Weeks" and encouraging digital alternatives.	Waste & Recycling; Curriculum & Learning; Procurement & Resources	During <i>No Paper Week</i> , Children and staff explore digital tools, record learning on whiteboards, and reflect on the impact of paper use. Links with Computing, PSHE, and eco-council discussions.
Conserve energy by promoting habits such as turning off electricity when not in use and incorporating outdoor learning.	Energy & Water; Curriculum & Learning	<i>Outdoor Learning</i> reduces classroom electricity use while promoting learning in natural settings. Eco-monitors track classroom energy use and celebrate improvements.
Promote reuse, repurpose, and renew through themed weeks and practical activities that highlight sustainable living.	Waste & Recycling; Curriculum & Learning; Community & Partnerships	<i>Reuse, Repurpose, Renew Week</i> encourages creative art projects from recycled materials. Families are invited to workshops, strengthening home-school sustainability links.
Recycle effectively, including paper and other classroom materials, to reduce waste and encourage responsible habits.	Waste & Recycling; Procurement & Resources	Recycling bins in every classroom, eco-team-led waste audits, and lessons on the recycling process support responsible daily habits. Federation events share progress and inspire joint eco-goals.

2. Focus Areas

Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Energy & Water 	1. Lighting Replace incandescent bulbs with LED or energy-efficient lighting. Install motion sensors in classrooms, corridors, and bathrooms. Encourage staff and Children to turn off lights when leaving rooms. Make use of natural daylight wherever possible. 2. Heating & Cooling Set thermostats to energy-efficient temperatures (e.g., 19–21°C for classrooms). Use programmable timers for heating and air conditioning systems. Ensure radiators and vents are not blocked by furniture or curtains. Encourage layering clothing in colder months to reduce heating demand. 3. Equipment & Appliances Switch off computers, projectors, printers, and other equipment at the end of the day. Use energy-efficient appliances (kettles, microwaves, fridges). Enable power-saving settings on all electronics. 4. Behavioural Initiatives Run “Switch Off” campaigns for staff and Children. Introduce energy monitors or displays to track electricity usage in real-time. Reward classes or groups that demonstrate consistent energy-saving behaviours. 5. Renewable & Sustainable Energy Consider solar panels, solar water heating, or small wind turbines if feasible. Explore options for purchasing energy from renewable sources			
Energy & Water 				

Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Waste Recycling 	1. Reduce Minimise single-use items (plastic cutlery, straws, cups). Encourage digital communication to reduce paper use (emails, online newsletters). Print only when necessary; use double-sided printing. Promote reusable lunch containers, water bottles, and snack packaging. Conduct “No Paper Weeks” or “Plastic-Free Days” to raise awareness. 2. Reuse Set up a “swap station” for books, stationery, or uniforms. Reuse scrap paper for notes, art, or classroom activities. Repurpose materials from previous projects into new lessons or crafts. Encourage creative reuse in art, DT, or gardening projects. 3. Recycling Provide clearly labelled recycling bins for paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and batteries. Educate Children on what can and cannot be recycled. Partner with local recycling schemes for items like ink cartridges, pens, or old electronics. Track recycling progress and share results in assemblies or newsletters. 4. Composting & Organic Waste Start a composting system for food scraps from school meals or garden waste. Use compost in school gardens, planters, or outdoor learning areas. 5. Behavioural Initiatives Run waste reduction challenges or competitions between classes. Incorporate pupil-led projects to audit waste and suggest improvements. Celebrate successes publicly to reinforce positive behaviour. 6. Curriculum & Awareness Integrate waste and recycling topics into science, geography, or PSHE lessons. Conduct hands-on projects, like building bird feeders or planters from recycled materials. Invite local environmental groups to speak or run workshops.			
Waste Recycling 				

Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Transport & Travel 	1. Promote Active Travel Encourage walking or cycling to school through “Walk to School” weeks or challenges. Provide safe bike storage and scooter racks on-site. Organise “bike bus” or walking groups for Children and families. 2. Reduce Car Use Promote carpooling among families and staff. Provide incentives for families who use sustainable travel regularly. Schedule school events to encourage combined trips and reduce unnecessary journeys. 3. Public Transport Share information about local bus/train routes and discounts for Children. Encourage staff and parents to use public transport instead of driving. 4. School Fleet & Trips Use buses or minibuses efficiently by combining trips and reducing empty seats Choose transport providers with low-emission or electric vehicles where possible. For residential or educational trips, prioritise coaches over individual cars. 5. Behavioural & Educational Initiatives Run assemblies or workshops about the environmental impact of transport. Encourage Children to log their active travel miles and reward participation. Integrate transport and carbon footprint topics into the curriculum (e.g., geography, science). 6. Infrastructure & Facilities Provide changing rooms, lockers, or shower facilities for staff who cycle. Maintain safe pedestrian routes to and from school.			

Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Curriculum & Learning 	1. Embedding Sustainability Across Subjects Science & Geography: Study ecosystems, climate change, renewable energy, water cycles, and biodiversity. Maths: Collect and analyse data on energy, water, and waste usage in school. English & Literacy: Write reports, persuasive texts, or stories focused on environmental themes. Art & Design: Create artwork or projects from recycled or natural materials. History: Explore how societies have used resources over time and the impact on the environment. 2. Enquiry-Based & Experiential Learning Encourage Children to investigate real-world sustainability issues in their local community. Use projects, fieldwork, or outdoor learning to explore environmental topics. Facilitate student-led research and presentations on sustainability challenges. 3. Pupil Voice & Leadership Establish Eco Councils or Green Teams to lead initiatives and decision-making. Involve Children in planning “No Paper Weeks,” recycling campaigns, or biodiversity projects. Allow Children to propose and lead sustainability projects in school and the community. 4. Outdoor Learning & Nature Engagement Use school grounds and local green spaces for lessons on biodiversity and conservation. Develop school gardens, ponds, and wildlife habitats as hands-on learning resources. Organise visits to farms, nature reserves, or renewable energy facilities. 5. Celebrating Learning & Achievements Display Children’s work and projects on sustainability around school. Share outcomes in assemblies, newsletters, or the school website. Reward innovative ideas and achievements in reducing environmental impact.			

Curriculum & Learning 	6. Cross-Curricular Projects Combine subjects for thematic sustainability projects (e.g., writing, science, and art on rewilding or pollinators). Integrate sustainability into enrichment days, trips, and creative activities.			
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Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Biodiversity 	1. Habitat Creation & Enhancement Create a pond to support amphibians, insects, and other wildlife. Rewild areas of the school grounds with native plants, grasses, and wildflowers. Build bug hotels, bird boxes, and hedgehog habitats to support local fauna. Plant pollinator-friendly flowers to encourage bees, butterflies, and other insects. 2. Outdoor Learning Spaces Develop wildlife gardens and outdoor classrooms to support lessons in science, art, and literacy. Use trees, hedges, and shrubs to create natural boundaries and learning zones. Install seating areas and trails for observation and reflective learning. 3. Sustainable Ground Management Avoid harmful pesticides and chemicals; encourage organic gardening practices. Use compost from school food and garden waste to enrich soil. Mulch and maintain plants sustainably to reduce water use. 4. Pupil Engagement & Stewardship Involve Children in planning, planting, and maintaining green spaces. Encourage Children to monitor wildlife and keep biodiversity journals. Run “Green Day” events or themed weeks focused on biodiversity. 5. Partnerships & Community Involvement Collaborate with local environmental groups, wildlife trusts, or farms. Invite experts to lead workshops or guided outdoor learning sessions. Participate in national or local biodiversity initiatives and competitions.			

Biodiversity 	6. Curriculum Links Use biodiversity projects to teach science, maths (data collection), art, and literacy. Connect local habitats to global environmental issues (e.g., climate change, conservation).			
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Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Procurement & Resources 	1. Sustainable Purchasing Policies Prioritise suppliers who demonstrate sustainable and ethical practices. Choose locally sourced products to reduce transport emissions and support the local economy. Purchase items made from recycled or recyclable materials wherever possible. Include sustainability criteria in all tenders and purchasing decisions. 2. Eco-Friendly School Supplies Use refillable pens, markers, and glue sticks instead of disposable ones. Purchase recycled paper and eco-certified stationery. Avoid single-use plastics in classroom and office supplies. Encourage bulk buying to reduce packaging waste. 3. Cleaning and Maintenance Products Switch to non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning products. Buy in concentrated forms to reduce packaging and transport impact. Use reusable cleaning cloths and mop heads instead of disposable wipes. 4. Furniture and Equipment Refurbish or upcycle existing furniture where possible before buying new. Choose FSC-certified wood and sustainably sourced materials. Donate or sell unwanted items to community groups or recycling initiatives. Buy durable, long-lasting equipment to reduce replacement frequency. 5. Uniforms and Textiles Work with uniform suppliers to source ethically produced, sustainable materials. Offer a uniform swap or donation scheme for families.			

Procurement & Resources 	Promote the use of recycled textiles for art and craft projects. 6. Digital and IT Procurement Buy energy-efficient ICT equipment (Energy Star rated). Ensure old electronics are responsibly recycled through accredited e-waste schemes. Consider refurbished or second-hand tech where appropriate. Use cloud-based systems to reduce printing and storage demands 7. Behavioural & Awareness Initiatives Involve Children in audits of school resources to identify waste and inefficiency. Display information on sustainable sourcing in staff rooms and offices. Recognise and reward classes or teams that demonstrate resource-conscious practices. 8. Monitoring & Continuous Improvement Keep a record of sustainable purchasing decisions and cost savings. Review procurement policies annually with input from staff and Children. Share good practice examples across the Federation.			
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Focus	Actions/Target	Timescale	Success Criteria	Progress/ Notes
Community & partnerships 	1. Local Community Involvement Collaborate with local environmental groups, wildlife trusts, and community gardens. Invite community members to support biodiversity projects such as planting days or pond building. Take part in local sustainability initiatives (e.g., tree planting, litter picks, energy-saving challenges). Create joint projects with parish councils or local organisations to improve green spaces. 2. Parent and Family Engagement			

**Community
&
Partnership**



Host family eco-events such as recycling workshops, repair cafés, or “green fairs.”
Share sustainability updates and tips through newsletters and social media.
Encourage families to adopt sustainable practices at home (e.g., walking to school, waste reduction).
Offer opportunities for parents to volunteer in gardening or outdoor learning projects.

3. School Partnerships

Work collaboratively across the Federation to share ideas, resources, and best practice.
Partner with other schools to run joint environmental initiatives or challenges.
Join regional or national eco-school networks for support and recognition.

4. Business and Organisation Links

Build partnerships with local businesses that promote sustainability.
Seek sponsorship or donations of eco-friendly resources or plants.
Collaborate with farms, garden centres, and local producers for educational visits and learning experiences.
Establish links with renewable energy companies to support learning about clean energy.

5. Wider Community Action

Promote community litter picks and local improvement projects.
Share the school’s sustainability successes in community newsletters and local press.
Use the school as a hub for local environmental awareness campaigns.
Invite local councillors or environmental officers to visit and support pupil-led initiatives.

6. Pupil Leadership and Outreach

Empower Eco Councils or School Councils to lead community-focused sustainability projects.
Encourage Children to present their work at local events or to visiting community groups.
Develop pupil ambassadors to share sustainability messages beyond school.

7. Faith and Global Links

Strengthen links with the local church through eco-themes in collective worship and community services.

Community & Partnership 	Explore connections with partner schools or projects overseas to understand global sustainability challenges. Celebrate Christian values of stewardship and responsibility for God's creation through shared community action. 8. Monitoring and Celebration Collect feedback from partners and families to evaluate the impact of initiatives. Publicly celebrate community achievements in assemblies, newsletters, and local media. Maintain a record of community involvement and partnerships to demonstrate impact and continuity.			
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3. Monitoring & Evaluation

What will be monitored?	How will it be monitored?	Who will monitor it?	Frequency	Reporting Method
Energy use (lighting, heating, appliances)	Energy meters, class energy monitors, observations of switching off devices	Eco-Council, Site Manager, Staff	Weekly (classroom checks) / Monthly (meter review)	Eco-Council reports, staff meetings, newsletter updates
Water usage	Meter readings, observations of water use in classrooms and outdoor areas	Site Manager, Eco-Council	Monthly	Reports to staff, assemblies, newsletter
Paper and printing use	Track print volumes, No Paper Week participation, digital submission audits	Eco-Council, Class Teachers	Termly	Display in classroom, newsletter, assembly recognition
Waste and recycling	Audit bins for recycling, compost, and landfill; track participation in themed weeks	Eco-Council, Staff	Monthly	Eco-Council reports, display boards, newsletter

Outdoor learning & biodiversity initiatives	Pupil-led logs/journals, wildlife surveys, habitat monitoring (ponds, pollinators, rewilding)	Eco-Council, Class Teachers	Termly	Outdoor learning floor books, display boards, assemblies
Procurement & resource efficiency	Review of purchasing logs, audit of reusable vs single-use items, eco-friendly supplies	Head, Admin, Eco-Council	Termly	Staff meeting reports, newsletter highlights
Sustainable travel & transport	Track walking/cycling participation, carpool numbers, transport survey	Eco-Council, Parents, Staff	Termly	Display boards, assemblies, newsletter
Pupil engagement & leadership	Participation in Eco-Council, themed weeks, projects, pupil-led initiatives	Eco-Council Advisor, Staff Leads	Termly	Assembly recognition, newsletter, website updates
Community & partnerships	Number of partnerships, events, volunteer involvement, feedback from community	Eco-Council, Federation Leads	Termly	Newsletter, local press, federation meetings
Curriculum integration	Review of sustainability topics across subjects, project completion, pupil reflections	Subject Leaders, Teachers	Termly	Staff meetings, pupil presentations, floor books

4. Communication & Engagement

Children	Children are at the heart of our sustainability work. The Eco-Council and School Council lead initiatives such as waste audits, biodiversity projects, and themed weeks like <i>No Paper Week</i> and <i>Reuse, Repurpose, Renew Week</i> . Children take on roles as <i>Eco Monitors</i> to promote turning off lights, reducing water waste, and recycling in classrooms. Pupil voice drives many sustainability actions, ensuring they are meaningful and relevant. Outdoor learning and enquiry-based projects encourage children to take ownership of their environment and to share their discoveries with others.
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Staff Engagement	Staff model sustainable behaviours and integrate environmental themes into their curriculum planning. Regular staff meetings and briefings include sustainability updates, new ideas, and opportunities for collaboration. Staff contribute to themed weeks, support pupil-led initiatives, and share examples of sustainable practice in teaching and resource use. The <i>Bite Size Improvement Focus (BIF)</i> approach enables all staff to feed into and review sustainability goals collectively.
Parent & Community Links	Parents and the wider community are key partners in sustainability. Families are encouraged to participate in community events such as <i>Mundford Junctions</i> , <i>Gooderstone Gatherings</i> , <i>reuse, repurpose & recycle days</i> , and <i>Community Gardening Days</i> . We share updates and advice through newsletters, social media, and the school website, celebrating achievements and providing simple steps families can take at home. We will also collaborate with local farms, wildlife groups, and environmental organisations to enrich learning and strengthen our rural connections.
Celebrations & Sharing	Successes are shared through assemblies, newsletters, displays, and social media. Our <i>Sustainability Wall</i> highlights pupil achievements and showcases projects like pond building, rewilding, and creative reuse. Annual Eco-Awards recognise outstanding contributions from classes or individuals. We also share progress between schools in the federation during <i>staff meetings</i> and staff training days, building a shared culture of pride in our collective environmental journey

5. Resources & Support Needed

Area	Resource / Support Required	Source	Cost (if any)	Funding Source
Energy & Water	Energy monitors, timers, motion sensors, LED bulbs	Local suppliers, energy companies	Medium	School budget, grants
Waste & Recycling	Recycling bins, compost bins, reusable containers, posters for awareness campaigns	Local councils, Eco-Schools resources	Low	FOMS/FROGS, school budget
Transport & Travel	Bike racks (Gooderstone), pedestrian safety signage, promotional materials for walking/cycling	Local authority, Sustrans https://www.sustrans.org.uk	Medium	School budget, community sponsorship

Curriculum & Learning	Outdoor learning materials, wildlife survey kits, books on sustainability, arts & crafts recycled materials	RSPB Schools https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-schools , WWF resources, local libraries	Low-Medium	School budget, Eco grants
Biodiversity & Grounds	Native plants, pollinator-friendly seeds, pond construction materials, bird boxes, bug hotels	Wildlife Trusts https://www.wildlifetrusts.org , local garden centres, community donations	Medium	FOMS/FROGS, grants, community fundraising
Procurement & Resources	Sustainable school supplies, refillable pens, recycled paper, eco-friendly cleaning products	Eco-Schools, Green Schools Alliance https://www.greenschoolsalliance.org	Medium	School budget, supplier discounts
Community & Partnerships	Volunteer support, workshops, expert speakers, transport for community visits	Local environmental organisations, RSPB, Buglife https://www.buglife.org.uk	Low	Community grants, school budget
Staff Training & Development	CPD sessions on sustainability, biodiversity, outdoor learning	Eco-Schools, local authority, online webinars	Low	School budget, Eco grants
Communication & Engagement	Display boards, newsletters, social media, assembly resources	School printing, digital platforms	Low	School budget

- Where possible, the school will seek **partnerships and donations** to reduce costs.
- Many organisations provide **free educational resources** and guidance (RSPB, WWF, Wildlife Trusts, Eco-Schools).
- Funding for larger projects (pond construction, outdoor classroom enhancements) may come from **grants, FOMS/FROGS fundraising, or local sponsorship**.
- All resources will be regularly **reviewed and reused** wherever possible to maximise sustainability impact.

6. Review & Reflection

How will you evaluate progress and set new goals?

The school will undertake an annual review of sustainability initiatives to evaluate progress, celebrate achievements, and set future goals. Review will focus on:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Assess how sustainability topics have been embedded across subjects. Review pupil work, floor books, and project outputs.
- **Pupil Engagement:** Evaluate participation in Eco-Council, themed weeks, and biodiversity projects. Gather pupil feedback and reflections.
- **Energy, Water, Waste, and Resources:** Review monitoring data on energy use, water conservation, recycling rates, and procurement practices. Identify trends and areas for improvement.
- **Community & Partnerships:** Reflect on partnerships with local groups, environmental organisations, and parents. Assess attendance and engagement in events.

Review Frequency:

- Termly informal reviews by Eco-Council and staff leads
- Annual formal review involving staff, governors, Children, and community representatives

Who is Involved:

- Eco-Council and pupil leaders
- Staff sustainability leads and subject coordinators
- Governors and Federation leads
- Parents and community partners

Next Review Date:

- October 2026.

Summary of Key Achievements:

- Improved biodiversity on school grounds through pond creation, rewilding, and pollinator gardens
- Reduced paper and energy use via *No Paper Weeks* and *Switch Off* campaigns

- Active pupil-led initiatives in recycling, sustainable travel, and outdoor learning
- Strengthened community links through events, partnerships, and workshops

Resources & Inspiration for Future Goals:

The school will continue to use guidance and resources from leading conservation organisations to support projects, planning, and curriculum enrichment:

- **RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds):** <https://www.rspb.org.uk> – wildlife surveys, school gardens, biodiversity activities
- **WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature):** <https://www.wwf.org.uk> – sustainability campaigns, climate and conservation education
- **The Wildlife Trusts:** <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org> – habitat restoration projects, school activities, local wildlife guidance
- **Eco-Schools:** <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk> – whole school sustainability programmes, resources, award schemes
- **Green Schools Alliance:** <https://www.greenschoolsalliance.org> – collaboration, resources, case studies from other schools
- **Keep Britain Tidy / Litter Heroes:** <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org> – litter reduction, campaigns, pupil engagement activities
- **Forestry Commission:** <https://www.forestryengland.uk> – tree planting, rewilding advice, outdoor learning support
- **Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust:** <https://www.buglife.org.uk> – pollinator habitats, bug hotels, garden projects

Next Steps / Future Goals:

- Expand biodiversity monitoring using citizen science tools (e.g., bird counts, insect surveys)
- Develop additional community partnerships for habitat and garden projects
- Increase pupil leadership opportunities in sustainability initiatives
- Continue integrating sustainability across the curriculum, including global environmental issues
- Set measurable targets for energy, water, and waste reduction for the following year