

Your School's Climate Action Plan

Chalton Lower School - 06/09/26

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
Students to take part in a litter survey  Pathway: Community	Litter not only makes our environment look unpleasant, but it impacts the health of thousands of animals every year, as well as reaching and polluting our oceans and rivers. Co-benefits In the process students will be clearing up litter in their local area.	In Marine Conservation Society's Litter in the Environment lesson plan and worksheets, students will experience litter in the environment first-hand by taking part in a litter survey. Results will then be analysed, looking at the sources and properties of litter, considering how it could impact the environment.
Raise funds for your school or other causes by recycling unwanted clothes  Pathway: Community	When clothing is thrown away it goes to landfill sites. These landfill sites do not provide an atmosphere where clothing can biodegrade which leads to the clothing releasing harmful greenhouse gases. If we recycled 100 million lbs of our pre-loved clothing that would be the same as taking 35,000 cars off of the road. Co-benefits This action redirects and stops unwanted clothes going to landfill, develops students' awareness of textile recycling. Money could be raised for school or a charity.	Recycle 4 School help organise collections of good quality unwanted clothing by encouraging parents, students and staff to recycle their unwanted items, and make a BACS payment into your school fund within 5 working days of the collection. The Recycle 4 School scheme is designed to develop students awareness of textile recycling while providing them with a platform to generate much needed funds for their chosen cause. Alternatively, be creative! Contact the Stitched Up team here, and enquire about a re-fashioning session at your school.

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Run a campaign to stop food waste at lunchtime  Pathway: Culture	Stopping food waste reduces the school's carbon footprint. Working with pupils in the Eco team and the school kitchen devise a campaign to prevent food waste. Consider food wasted in the kitchen and food waste that is not eaten. 1) Work with kitchen staff and the Eco team to organise food waste audits including food wasted in preparation, spoilage and from plates. It may be necessary to run the audit several times to identify trends. 2) Create an action plan to share your findings with the whole school and sets targets to reduce food waste for a certain period. 3) Organise how you will promote your campaign. Co-benefits It saves money on food purchasing and waste disposal.	WRAP's report on food waste in schools may be old but is still useful and can be found here. Food Savvy have more information of how to reduce food waste in schools here. Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) have more information about how to reduce waste and recycle here. This action supports the key area of "our production and consumption of resources" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.
Receive a free talk or workshop from WaterAid  Pathway: Curriculum	It is important for students to understand that even in the rainy UK it is important to look after our water.	WaterAid's trained speakers are experts in water, sanitation and hygiene. Speakers can give an online talk or workshop to your group about WaterAid's work to tackle COVID-19, climate change, periods and more! Book a free talk or workshop.
Explore how your local area connects to the ocean and how litter travels from sources on land to the sea  Pathway: Curriculum	It's estimated that 80% of litter in the ocean comes from inland sources, showing that no matter how far we live from the sea, our actions can affect marine life. Co-benefits Helps to get students to raise awareness in their community.	Marine Conservation Society provides a lesson plan and worksheets for 7-11 year olds, to help students understand the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
Sign Up to the Let's Go Zero Campaign  Pathway: Campus	Call for action from the government to support schools in being zero carbon. Co-benefits Join a movement of schools. The campaign calls for policy change and supports schools to reduce their carbon footprint.	Let's Go Zero is a campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission.

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Students to learn from and be inspired by climate innovators from around the world  Pathway: Curriculum	It is key for students to see and understand they are not alone in caring for nature and the environment to encourage and inspire them to take action. Co-benefits Young people will learn about actions people are taking around the world to tackle the climate crisis.	Share and discuss the case studies, videos and stories from around the world of those who have won the Ashen Climate award.
Hold a Fairtrade assembly  Pathway: Curriculum	Present an assembly to help raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the whole school. Fairtrade have a range of assemblies to choose from in the assembly section of their teaching resources library or you could make one of your own. Co-benefits The student-led role play assemblies support children to become confident individuals, boost self-esteem and develop empathy.	A Fairtrade message from Lothersdale Primary School in West Yorkshire.
Share air pollution reduction advice for when driving is essential  Pathway: Culture	1) Allocate a location for a Park and Stride A Park and Stride involves allocating a parking point for parents and carers away from the school (e.g. a public car park or supermarket or cinema car park) from where students can complete their journey on foot. 2) Promote car sharing for those who need to drive Car clubs and car-share schemes can help reduce the number of cars on the road. Encourage staff and families who can't walk/cycle/scoot to school to share the school run with others. 3) Implement a no idling zone around your school Make your school a no idling zone so that drivers always turn off their engines when stationary, and it is safe to do so. Co-benefits: Physical activity improves physical and mental health. There are also beneficial social outcomes. Car sharing can be cost-effective and sociable. Involving students in the campaign can provide opportunities for students to gain confidence in speaking and engagement.	Living Streets' 'Swap the whole ride for Park and Stride' is a guide to setting up a formal Park and Stride scheme as well as general guidance on encouraging walking to school. Sustrans provide guidance on car clubs and car sharing. Liftshare is car-share platform and includes advice on COVID-19 safe car sharing. Clean Air Day's 'No idling pack and leaflet' can help you run a no idling campaign with your school community. Take a look at our case study of a school campaigning against idling cars in Greater Manchester.

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Plant trees  Pathway: Campus	Trees absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygen, improve air quality, retain water, cool air and provide valuable habitat. Planting trees implies buying, or sourcing, small whips or larger trees and finding the right space in the school grounds where they can grow. But it could also mean creating a tree nursery and growing trees from seed. 1) Assess your site and consider the soil and how the trees will grow across their lifetime. 2) Consider if you want to bring in an organisation to support or, 3) Consider the equipment needed to plant the trees and whether they will need safe-guarding from being trimmed, trampled or eaten. 4) Consider who will help to plant them - the whole school, or a class, or the Eco team. 5) Consider how they will be maintained in the future. Co-benefits They are proven to increase our sense of well-being.	City of Trees have a school tree planting programme and can organise a day's planting. The Woodland Trust will send schools free packs of small tree whips. Smaller trees easily get damaged so it might be better to find a programme where larger trees can be planted. This action supports the key area of "our natural environment" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.
Get composting to reduce green waste  Pathway: Campus	Making compost reduces the amount of green and vegetable waste that needs to be recycled off site. Schools produce plenty of fruit and vegetable waste, which if composted, can provide the means to refresh the school's growing area. It also offers opportunities to learn about decomposition. 1) Find a suitable site. Too much sun will dry it out but it needs some warmth to keep the microbes alive. Make sure it is on soil rather than a hard surface. 2) Buy a plastic bin or build one with the Eco team from pallet wood. 3) Make sure the Eco team take fruit and vegetable waste out each day and check it is not too wet or too dry. 4) Turn it occasionally. Co-benefits School makes its own compost to refresh beds and it is good for biodiversity.	If you want to build a pallet compost system using recycled wood there is an excellent film from GrowVeg showing you the whole process. The Wildlife Trust resource tells what to include and what not and gives advice about composting for wildlife. A plastic bin is easy to use but not if your grounds are plastic-free. Sow the City can provide support. MEEN's Save Our Soils project supports composting. This action supports the key area of "our natural environment" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.

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Set heating to the 'right' temperature  Pathway: Campus	Heating costs increase by around 5-10% for every 1°C increase (Carbon Trust) so setting the right temperature reduces the school's carbon emissions. Setting the right temperature for everyone in school can be difficult but the Health and Safety legislation suggests a minimum of 18C in most teaching rooms and 15C in areas of circulation. It is also important to consider the times that the heating comes on and off part of effective heat regulation. 1) Working with the Eco team find out who controls the heating. 2) Discuss how the temperature is set. 3) Make suggestions to reset the temperature controls and that they are adjusted to reflect different uses and activities in different areas or rooms. 4) Check timers so they reflect actual hours of use and are set to the right date and time (particularly after the clocks go forward or back). 5) Talk to the building's inhabitants to discuss the changes. Co-benefits It will save school money on heating bills. Can improve the learning environment for students	The National Education Union offers advice on temperature settings in schools and workplaces whilst the Department of Education advice states that cutting back your heating for an hour a day can save another 5-10% on the bills. The Department for Education also has tips to reduce energy and water use in schools, which you can access here. This action supports the key area of "our homes workplaces and public buildings " which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.

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Teach students about air pollution through the curriculum  Pathway: Campus	1) Organise an air quality focused assembly for your school An assembly is a great way to reach the whole school at once with information about air pollution. A class that has been learning about air quality could present their findings to the rest of the school. The assembly could also be used as a moment to launch other initiatives, such as a no-idling campaign. 2) Lead action-focused lessons on air pollution with students of all ages Engage your students through activity kits, lesson plans, and tailored PowerPoint presentations. Co-benefits This is a good opportunity for students to gain confidence in presenting to a group. The 'ready to go' resources have been reviewed by teachers and link to the current curriculum, assisting teachers through lesson plans and multi-subject topics.	Clean Air Day's 'assembly pack' provides ideas and materials to help you run an air pollution assembly. Browse our collection of curriculum-linked teaching resources that explore the topic of air pollution for different key stages. These include curriculum-based resources for subjects including PSHE, Geography, Maths, Science, Design, Art and English. Clean Air Day schools resources have been designed specifically for students in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. Healthy Air offer creative and practical teaching activities for Key Stages 1 and 2 with links in to National Curriculum Science, Maths and English. Greenpeace has created an air pollution teaching pack for Key Stage 2 Introduce your students to the topic of air pollution through this fun, Lego stop-motion video from Arup. Grandma's Footsteps, and associated learning resources, is a story that encourages children to take note of changes in the environment around them, and to imagine what they want their own future to look like.

Actions you already do

Promote active travel on the school run

Pathway: Culture

Reduce polluting traffic around the school

Pathway: Culture

Install double or triple glazed windows

Pathway: Campus