Churchwood Forest Path AP

Climate Action Plan 2026–2029

Off-Grid Forest School Alternative Provision for Learners Aged 9–14

1. Vision Statement

At Churchwood Forest Path AP, we believe that meaningful climate action begins with a strong connection to the natural world. Through our woodland-based, off-grid learning environment, learners develop the knowledge, practical skills, resilience, and confidence needed to become active stewards of the environment.

Our approach combines Forest School principles, outdoor learning, conservation work, and environmental responsibility to support both personal development and climate action. We aim to equip young people with the skills and values needed to contribute positively to their communities and to a sustainable future.

2. Climate Action Goals

We will:

- Protect and enhance the natural environment within our woodland setting.
- Support biodiversity through habitat creation and conservation.
- Minimise waste through reuse, recycling, and composting.
- Encourage low-impact lifestyles and sustainable choices.
- Embed climate and environmental awareness into everyday experiences.
- Promote community involvement in caring for the local environment.

3. Key Areas for Action

A. Woodland Stewardship and Biodiversity

Objectives

- Maintain and enhance the health of our woodland environment.
- Increase opportunities for wildlife to thrive.
- Teach young people how ecosystems support life.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeline
Monitor and care for woodland habitats	Staff and young people	Ongoing
Plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers where appropriate	Staff and Families	Annual
Create and maintain bug hotels, log piles, and wildlife habitats	young people and Staff	Ongoing
Conduct seasonal wildlife observations	Educators	Termly
Encourage young people to identify local plants, insects, birds, and animals	Educators	Ongoing

B. Waste Reduction and Composting

Objectives

- Reduce waste generation.
- Encourage young people to understand natural cycles of decomposition.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeline
Compost biodegradable food and natural materials	Staff and young people	Ongoing
Reuse natural and reclaimed materials for play and learning	Staff	Ongoing
Minimise single-use items during sessions and events	Staff	Ongoing
Encourage litter-free lunches and reusable containers where possible	Families	Ongoing
Participate in local litter-picking activities	Community	Annual

C. Sustainable Resource Use

Objectives

- Model low-impact living.
- Use resources thoughtfully and responsibly.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeline
Use natural resources respectfully and sustainably	Staff and young people	Daily
Harvest and use natural materials only when appropriate	Staff	Ongoing
Source second-hand, reclaimed, and sustainable resources whenever possible	Leadership Team	Ongoing
Encourage repair and reuse of equipment before replacement	Staff	Ongoing

Because Churchwood Forest Path AP operates off-grid, young people experience first-hand how living and learning can take place with a reduced environmental footprint and a close relationship with natural resources.

D. Climate and Environmental Education

Objectives

- Develop young people's understanding of caring for nature.
- Foster positive environmental attitudes and behaviours.

Learning Experiences

young people will:

- Observe seasonal changes.
- Learn about habitats and wildlife.
- Take part in gardening and planting activities.
- Understand composting and natural cycles.
- Learn how to care for woodland spaces responsibly.
- Explore weather patterns and the effects of changing seasons.
- Develop respect for all living things.

E. Sustainable Travel

Objectives

- Encourage environmentally conscious travel choices.

Actions

Action	Responsibility	Timeline
Promote walking, cycling, and car sharing where possible	Families	Ongoing
Share information about sustainable travel options	Staff	Annual
Encourage families to combine journeys where appropriate	Families	Ongoing

4. Family and Community Engagement

Churchwood Forest Path AP recognises that environmental responsibility is strengthened through community involvement.

Activities

- Family woodland conservation days.
- Tree planting projects.
- Community litter picks.
- Nature walks and wildlife surveys.
- Seasonal celebrations linked to the natural environment.
- Sharing sustainability ideas through newsletters and family communications.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Success will be measured through:

- Increased biodiversity observed within the woodland.
- Participation in conservation and habitat projects.
- Reduction in waste sent off site.
- Increased use of composting and recycled materials.
- Family involvement in environmental activities.
- Evidence of young people's understanding of environmental responsibility.

Annual Review Questions

- Have we improved habitats for wildlife?
- Are we minimising waste effectively?
- Are young people actively engaged in caring for nature?
- Have families participated in environmental initiatives?
- Are there new opportunities to further reduce our environmental impact?

6. young people's Voice

young people will play an active role in shaping our environmental work by:

- Helping care for woodland habitats.
- Participating in wildlife surveys.

- Sharing ideas during group discussions.
- Helping with composting and recycling.
- Taking part in conservation projects.
- Acting as "Nature Champions" within the setting.

Commitment Statement

As an off-grid Forest School Alternative Provision, Churchwood Forest Path AP is uniquely positioned to demonstrate sustainable living in practice. Through conservation projects, biodiversity enhancement, woodland stewardship, and learner-led environmental action, we will develop responsible, resilient young people who understand their role in protecting and improving the natural world.