

THE DUSTON SCHOOL

Luminara Education
Trust Sustainability
Plan

THE
DUSTON TDS
SCHOOL 4-19

www.thedustonschool.org

1. Introduction

The Luminara Educational Trust Sustainability Plan outlines our commitment to environmental responsibility, climate action and sustainable development. Our strategic aim is to become a model for sustainability within our community, equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to address future environmental challenges. Through leadership, innovation and collaboration, we will foster a culture where sustainability is embedded into every aspect of school life.

2. Leadership and Governance

Sustainability at The Duston School is overseen by the Sustainability working party, which includes the Principal, CFO & three Assistant Principals.

The trustee board will receive an annual report on sustainability progress and allocates resources as needed.

Key responsibilities include:

- Setting and reviewing sustainability targets
- Ensuring compliance with local authority and national policy
- Championing sustainability across all departments
- Supporting staff and students to lead environmental initiatives

Minutes of these meetings are shared with senior leadership and trustees.

3. Baseline Audit and Assessment

An annual sustainability audit reviews our:

- Energy use (electricity, gas and other fuels)
- Water consumption
- Waste and recycling streams
- Transport emissions relating to staff and student travel
- Biodiversity and quality of green spaces on site

This baseline informs our strategies and allows us to measure progress. Key findings guide action across infrastructure, curriculum integration and community engagement. Data is recorded and compared year-on-year to identify trends and priorities.

4. Sustainability Vision and Goals

TDS aims to be a carbon responsible working environment, that engages in an array of energy efficiency improvements and seeks to educate all pupils to develop a well-rounded understanding of being environmentally responsible.

Interim objectives include:

- Ensure every student engages with sustainability-focused learning and activities each academic year

These goals will be reviewed at least every three years and updated in line with national guidance and the school's development priorities.

5. Curriculum and Education

The Duston School integrates sustainability throughout the curriculum to develop students' knowledge, skills and values.

Key actions:

- Embed climate change, environmental science and sustainability themes within geography, science, PSHE, Design & Technology, citizenship and other relevant subjects
- Develop cross-curricular projects focused on real-world sustainability challenges
- Enable student-led research and projects, such as energy audits, biodiversity surveys and campaigning on environmental issues
- Provide staff training and professional development on sustainability education and climate literacy
- Celebrate student work on sustainability through displays, assemblies, newsletters and social media

The aim is to ensure that by the time students leave The Duston School, they are informed, empowered and motivated to act on environmental issues.

6. Estates and Operations

Our estates strategy focuses on reducing environmental impact while maintaining a safe and effective learning environment.

Planned measures include:

- Completing a phased transition to LED and other low-energy lighting across the site

7. Waste Management

Our waste management strategy aims to minimise waste, increase reuse and improve recycling rates.

Key actions:

- Introduce clearly labelled recycling points across classrooms, corridors and communal areas
- Conduct annual waste audits to identify key waste streams and reduction opportunities
- Work with catering providers to reduce food waste and packaging
- Promote reuse initiatives (e.g. stationery, uniform swaps, resources repurposing)
- Provide regular awareness campaigns and student-led initiatives on waste reduction

8. Water and Energy Conservation

We will reduce energy and water consumption through infrastructure improvements and behaviour change.

Actions include:

- Installing water-efficient taps, toilets and other fixtures where feasible
- Reviewing heating and cooling controls to optimise comfort and efficiency
- Running student-led “switch-off” and “save water” campaigns
- Displaying energy and water use information to encourage responsible use
- Encouraging staff and students to report leaks, faults and inefficiencies promptly

9. Biodiversity and Grounds Management

The Duston School grounds are an important habitat resource and outdoor learning environment. We will enhance biodiversity and create more nature-rich spaces.

Our plans include:

- Creating and maintaining wildflower areas, hedgerows and native planting schemes
- Establishing wildlife habitats, such as bug hotels, bird boxes and log piles
- Managing selected areas under a reduced-mowing or “no-mow” regime to encourage wild plants and invertebrates
- Developing an outdoor learning area to support curriculum activities and student wellbeing
- Establishing a student gardening or eco-club to help care for the grounds and grow plants/produce

10. Sustainable Travel

We aim to reduce emissions associated with travel to and from The Duston School and to promote healthier, active modes of transport.

Actions include:

- Encouraging walking, cycling and use of public transport through communication and campaigns
- Providing secure and accessible bicycle and scooter storage
- Supporting national and local initiatives such as Walk to School Week or Cycle to School events
- Working with local authorities to improve walking and cycling routes and road safety near the school
- Reviewing and, where possible, reducing reliance on car journeys for school trips and activities
- Charging points for EV vehicles

11. Procurement and Supply Chain

We recognise that our purchasing decisions have environmental and social impacts. The Duston School will:

- Prioritise goods and services from suppliers with clear environmental and ethical standards
- Consider whole-life costs, durability and recyclability in procurement decisions
- Phase out single-use and non-recyclable items wherever suitable alternatives exist
- Encourage departments to reduce unnecessary purchasing and share resources where possible
- Favour local and regional suppliers when practical to reduce transport emissions and support the local economy

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sustainability is a shared responsibility. The Duston School will work closely with students, staff, families, trustees and the wider community.

Engagement activities may include:

- Sustainability-themed days, weeks and events (e.g. Eco-Days, Earth Day, assemblies)
- Regular updates on sustainability projects and performance through newsletters, the school website and social media
- Opportunities for parents and carers to participate in sustainability initiatives and consultations
- Partnerships with local charities, community groups, businesses and environmental organisations

13. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are essential to track progress and refine our approach.

We will:

- Track key performance indicators termly, including energy use, water use, waste and recycling data, and participation in sustainability activities
- Maintain a central record of sustainability data, initiatives and outcomes
- Produce an annual Sustainability Report for governors and the school community
- Review this Sustainability Plan at least every three years, or sooner if national policy or local context changes significantly

Findings from monitoring will inform future targets, resource allocation and priorities within the School Development Plan.

14. Timeline and Action Plan

Our implementation will be phased to ensure progress is realistic, achievable and properly resourced.

- Short-term actions (0–2 years):
 - Complete baseline audits and set detailed targets
 - Implement quick-win measures (e.g. behavioural campaigns, LED rollout where easy, 'switch off' practice)
 - Begin curriculum mapping for sustainability links
 - Staff sustainability champion per faculty, pupil eco-warriors for each year group

- Medium-term actions (3–5 years):
 - Deliver key infrastructure upgrades (insulation, controls, water-saving measures, charging points for EV vehicles)
 - Embed sustainability fully across the curriculum
 - Achieve measurable reductions in energy, water and waste
 - Develop and enhance biodiversity projects and outdoor learning spaces
- Long-term actions (6+ years):
 - Review and redefine ambitions in line with national and local climate goals
 - Maintain and expand successful initiatives and partnerships

15. Conclusion

The Duston School is committed to a sustainable future. By embedding environmental responsibility throughout our teaching, facilities and culture, we will empower our students and staff to protect the planet, now and in the years ahead.

This Sustainability Plan provides a framework for ongoing improvement, collaboration and innovation. Through collective effort, The Duston School will play its part in addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, while creating a healthier, more resilient learning environment for all.