

School Sustainability Lead

A School Sustainability Lead is a person (or team) responsible for driving and implementing sustainability initiatives within a school/setting. The role involves developing and implementing climate action plans (CAP), integrating sustainability into the curriculum and engaging the school community in environmental awareness and action. A School Sustainability Lead may also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the school's sustainability progress. It is for each individual setting or trust to decide the structure of their sustainability leadership team though best practice shows that change is delivered when driven by a diverse team. It is important that both educational (e.g. teaching staff) and operational (e.g. estates management) expertise is brought to this team. The presence of school senior leaders is also critical for planning and implementation to be successful.

Key Responsibilities of a School Sustainability Lead:

Advocating for sustainability in school:

- Promoting sustainability as a core value and advocating for the necessary resources and support to implement sustainability initiatives.

Developing and implementing a Climate Action Plan (CAP):

- This plan outlines actions the school will take to reduce its environmental impact, including energy efficiency measures, waste reduction strategies and sustainable transportation options.

Integrating sustainability into the curriculum:

- Incorporating sustainability themes and issues into a range of subjects, encouraging pupils to think critically about environmental challenges and solutions.

Building community engagement:

- Involving pupils, staff, parents and the wider community in sustainability initiatives, fostering a shared sense of responsibility.

Monitoring and reporting on progress:

- Tracking the school's progress towards its sustainability goals, identifying areas for improvement and communicating findings to the school community.

Collaborating with local organisations:

- Working with local councils, environmental groups and other educational institutions to share best practice and collaborate on sustainability projects.

Ensuring compliance with sustainability regulations and guidelines:

- Staying up to date on relevant legislation and ensuring that the school's sustainability practices meet the required standards.

Supporting teachers and staff:

- Providing training and resources to help teachers integrate sustainability into their lessons and encouraging staff to adopt sustainable behaviours.