



Brindishe Federation Newsletter

Thursday 27th November 2025

Lets Go Zero!



For a healthier, happier Brindishe Schools, we are cutting our carbon with Let's Go Zero!

Brindishe Schools have already embarked on our journey to be zero carbon by 2030.

All three schools have a climate action plan – now a must for all schools and support from our Climate Action Advisor, Oci Scott who provides practical solutions and ideas. We are trying to lower our energy bills, have better buildings, develop thriving outdoor spaces and ensure that our children enjoy planet-friendly food.

8000 schools across the country have signed up to the 'Let's Go Zero' pledge to become carbon zero by 2030. Here are some of the areas that we are focusing on at Brindishe Green, Brindishe Manor and Brindishe Lee this year.



Energy

With building upgrades, and modern technologies like solar panels, schools can lower fuel bills and create a better environment for staff and students.



Waste

Whether they're saving water, food, energy or office supplies, schools lower emissions and costs by cutting waste. Teachers and students can get involved too.



Adaptation and resilience

Climate change means floods and heatwaves are a growing risk. We help schools take practical steps that protect people's health, and make schools more comfortable place to work and learn.



Curriculum

With free resources from across our Let's Go Zero coalition, we help teachers deliver engaging lessons on climate change, nature and the environment.



Green skills and careers

A growing number of jobs are linked to sustainability and climate action. We support schools to help young people explore these careers, and get the skills to succeed.



Food

Food is a big source of school carbon emissions. We help schools and their suppliers provide meals that are delicious, popular and climate-friendly.



Procurement

Purchasing goods and services also drives up emissions – but tracking the impact of this, and taking action, is particularly tough. We help schools put sustainability at the heart of their buying processes.



Water

Saving water lowers bills and benefits the environment. We support a wide range of actions – from behaviour change campaigns to rainwater harvesting.

Green Careers Week - Not Just Lab Coats

3rd to the 8th of November 2025 was Green Careers Week!

"A green career can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. It can be any industry, not just those seen as 'green.' Green careers are a fast-growing global employment sector that touches every company, employer, employee, and education establishment. Requiring everyone to work together to build a talent pipeline from school through to employment for the thousands and thousands of jobs and roles needed for the future."

During Green Careers Week, in all Brindishe Schools, we spoke to the children in our assemblies about jobs, roles and occupations that contributes to saving our environment. By recognising Green Careers Week with our children and parents/carers, we are integrating green skills and career pathways in our schools.

[Here you can find a plethora of resources and a 'Parent's 'Guide'.](#)



Online Resources to support your child at home understand climate change

BBC Bitesize has an abundance of resources to aid you child's understanding of climate change, suitable for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and teens. Click the image to find out more.

Save energy and money

Reducing the amount of energy we use is one of the most effective ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Encourage your children to become 'energy detectives' and:

- Turn off lights when leaving a room
- Unplug electronic devices when not in use
- Consider clothing choices instead of adjusting heating or cooling.
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These habits help save energy, teach children responsibility and can significantly lower your energy costs. Additional steps you can take include choosing energy efficient lightbulbs and appliances, and by switching to renewable energy sources like solar or wind where available.



Climate action for families

Practical steps you can take at home to help protect the planet.

Connect with nature

Children who feel connected to nature are more motivated to protect it.

Start with simple activities:

- Get outside and encourage your child to observe plants and animals
- Create nature challenges where children look for specific leaves, flowers or birds
- Build a bird feeder and watch visiting wildlife
- Plant a tree or care for a potted plant at home.



Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle

We can help protect the climate if we “Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle”.

Reduce how much waste your family produces. Choose longer-lasting items over single use, disposable alternatives. For example, you can encourage children to use reusable water bottles and carry reusable bags with them for shopping.

Help them think about what we consume. For example, using both sides of the paper when writing or drawing, or asking before buying new things "Do I really need this? Can I borrow or share with a friend or sibling instead?"

Reuse by finding new purposes for old household items. Challenge your children to find creative ways to reuse items rather than throwing them away. For example, you can transform glass jars into pencil holders, cardboard boxes into craft storage and old t-shirts into cleaning rags. Avoid re-using single-use plastic items though, which can be harmful for health.

Repair items rather than replacing them with new ones. If something breaks at home, can you fix it or take it to a local repair shop? Often it can be cheaper than buying a new one. Learning practical skills like sewing can be a fun activity to do with your children. You can repair damaged clothing or find creative ways to update them to match your child's sense of style!

Recycle by setting up clearly labelled recycling bins at home and teaching children to sort materials properly. Could your child create a poster to remind everyone what materials should go where? Remember to set a positive example by consistently recycling yourself. If your community does not have a recycling programme, write a letter with your child to the local government about why it is important to have one.



Starting Reception in 2026

Family and Education

Important dates for the admission process for children starting primary school in September 2026.

The deadline for applying for a primary school place is **Thursday 15 January 2026.**

Contact

Primary School Admissions and Appeals

Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, SE6 4RU

Telephone:  020 8314 8282

Email:  primaryadmissions@lewisham.gov.uk

Online Safety Bulletin

New Technology

With Christmas nearly here and with some children receiving new technology or related games, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games.
- Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for some devices:

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/NintendoSwitch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information

You can find out more about parental controls here: <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parental-controls/>



Applying to start primary school 2026–27

Information about admissions arrangements

Is your child due to start primary school in September 2026?

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you can apply for a Reception place for September 2026.

Before you apply you should:

- Research your local primary schools
- visit schools you want to apply for
- carefully check the admissions criteria for schools you are interested in.

From 1 September 2025, visit our website for everything you need to know about applying for primary school places, including:

- schools that are in the borough and are closest to you
- how to apply for a school place
- how decisions are made
- what happens after you apply
- important dates in the application process.

Deciding which schools to apply for

The first step is to decide which schools you would like to apply for. There are many good and outstanding primary schools in the Lewisham borough. Find out about these schools and see which are nearest to you at www.lewisham.gov.uk/primaryschools.

Check if your child is likely to be offered a place at a school

If there are more applicants for a school than places available, we use the admissions criteria to decide who should be offered a place. The criteria vary from school to school. You should use them to find out if your child has a good chance of being offered a place at the schools you prefer.

How to apply

You need to apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk. You can apply for up to six schools, either in Lewisham or outside the borough. You must not put independent schools on your application. You must list the schools you wish to apply for in preference order. You can apply online from 1 September 2025 and must apply by the closing date on 15 January 2026.

When you will find out which school your child has been offered a place at

You will get an email on the evening of national offer day, Thursday 16 April 2026. It will tell you where your child has been offered a place and how to accept the offer.

From 1 September 2025, you can find all the information you need to apply for primary school places at www.lewisham.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. If you cannot find the information you need, call us on 020 8314 8282 (Monday – Thursday 10–12pm and Monday 2–4pm).

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Most children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities can get the support they need at local mainstream schools.

If your child has an education, health and care plan, you need to follow a different process. Find out more at www.lewisham.gov.uk/SENadmissions.

Free email reminders

Sign up to get free emails with reminders, application tips and more at www.lewisham.gov.uk/primaryadmissions



Apply online:
closing date for
applications 15 January 2026

Key Federation Dates

- Friday 28th November - INSET DAY - Schools closed to all children.
- End of Autumn Term - Friday 19th December 2025
- INSET DAY - school closed to children - Monday 5th January 2026
- Start of Spring 1 - Tuesday 6th January 2026

Brindishe Schools Governing Body

Governing Body meetings are regular and meet every half term. Parents/carers are more than welcome to attend our meetings as 'observers'. This means you can sit and observe the meeting but will be unable to speak/comment and would need to leave the meeting during confidential items.

If you would like to know more about the governing body or you would like to attend one of our meetings, please email Rachel Waite - rawait@brindisheschools.org. An email to confirm attendance at the meeting will need to be received before a parent/carer can join the meeting.

Our second meeting for 2025/2026 will be held on Thursday 11th December 2025 at Brindishe Green School - 6pm.