



698. Sustainability & Climate Action - Education & Engagement - Curriculum Integration Check for Climate & Sustainability

Category:	Sustainability & Climate Action
Subcategory:	Education & Engagement
Status:	Best Practice
Type:	Competent Person
Priority:	Recommended
Commonality:	Common

Note: This document provides guidance to support compliance but is not a substitute for professional advice.

Why This Task Matters

Your careful review of curriculum integration ensures pupils develop essential environmental awareness and sustainability skills that will serve them throughout their lives. By embedding climate and sustainability topics across subjects, you support DfE guidance, enhance educational outcomes, and build confidence in the organisation's commitment to preparing young people for environmental challenges while recognising the vital role facilities staff play in supporting a holistic approach to sustainability education that connects classroom learning with real-world action.

Task Summary

Best Practice: This task requires reviewing curriculum delivery each year to ensure climate and sustainability are appropriately integrated across subjects. The review should assess current integration across different subject areas, evaluate the effectiveness of sustainability teaching, identify opportunities for enhancement, and ensure alignment with the Climate Action Plan. Staff should examine curriculum maps, subject leader reports, teaching resources, and assessment methods to determine the depth and breadth of sustainability coverage. The process should include consultation with teaching staff, review of pupil engagement activities, and identification of

professional development needs. Updated integration should strengthen cross-curricular links and support whole-school sustainability objectives. This regular review ensures sustainability education remains current, effective, and contributes to pupil development while supporting the organisation's climate action commitments.

Relevant Legislation & Guidance

- **Climate Change Act 2008:** Supports education about climate change and sustainability.
- **Environment Act 2021:** Includes provisions for environmental education.
- **DfE guidance on sustainability in the curriculum:** Requires integration of climate and sustainability topics.
- **Education Act 1996:** Supports broad curriculum including environmental education.
- **Ofsted inspection framework:** Considers sustainability education in school evaluations.

Typical Frequency

This task should be completed yearly, ideally aligned with curriculum planning cycles and academic year reviews. The frequency could vary if significant curriculum changes occur or if new sustainability guidance is issued. In education settings, annual reviews ensure integration remains relevant to current environmental challenges and teaching needs.

Applicability

This task is recommended and common, applying to all schools and colleges as part of effective sustainability education. It is particularly important for establishments wanting to demonstrate comprehensive environmental education and meet DfE expectations. The task applies regardless of school type or phase, though the specific integration approaches may vary. Schools and colleges should consider this essential for pupil development and demonstrating educational quality in sustainability.

Responsible Persons

- **Task Type:** This is a Competent Person task that should be carried out by staff with knowledge of curriculum development and sustainability education.
- **Contractor Requirements:** Not applicable as this is a Competent Person task.
- **In-House Requirements:** Staff should have training in curriculum development and sustainability education. Familiarity with the school's curriculum structure and teaching approaches is essential.

- **Permit to Work:** No permit to work is required for this task.
- **Delivery Model:** This task is normally completed in-house by trained staff, often involving curriculum leaders and teaching staff.

Key Considerations

Important factors include coordinating with curriculum planning cycles, ensuring staff have appropriate training, and balancing integration with other curriculum priorities. The review should align with assessment requirements and pupil needs. Consider the cross-curricular nature of sustainability topics and opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. Risk assessment should focus on ensuring integration supports positive learning outcomes without overburdening the curriculum.

Task Instructions

Prerequisites & Safety

- Access to curriculum documentation and planning materials
- Understanding of sustainability education principles
- Knowledge of curriculum integration approaches
- Familiarity with subject-specific sustainability opportunities

Tools & Materials

- Current curriculum maps and schemes of work
- Subject leader reports and assessments
- Teaching resources and lesson plans
- Pupil work samples and engagement records
- Professional development records

Method (Step-by-Step)

1. **Documentation Review:** Examine current curriculum maps and sustainability integration.
2. **Subject Analysis:** Assess integration across different subject areas.
3. **Resource Evaluation:** Review teaching resources and materials.
4. **Staff Consultation:** Consult with subject leaders and teaching staff.

5. **Integration Assessment:** Evaluate effectiveness and identify gaps.
6. **Recommendations:** Develop recommendations for enhanced integration.

Measurements & Acceptance Criteria

Curriculum integration should demonstrate clear sustainability coverage across subjects with appropriate depth for different age groups. Integration should align with DfE guidance and support pupil development.

If Results Fail

Follow instructions on the Compliance Pod task completion form to record remedial/follow up actions and generate Reactive Task Tickets as required. If integration is inadequate, immediate actions should include consulting curriculum specialists and developing interim teaching resources.

Reinstatement & Housekeeping

No reinstatement required. Ensure all consultation records are filed appropriately.

Completion Checks

Confirm that comprehensive review has been completed, integration assessed, and evidence uploaded to Compliance Pod.

Record-Keeping & Evidence

- **Upload Process:** Upload any required statutory or supporting evidence to the corresponding task form in Compliance Pod.
- **Statutory Evidence:** No statutory evidence is required for this task.
- **Supporting/Good Practice Evidence:** Curriculum maps, subject leader reports, and teaching resources.

Common Pitfalls & Best Practice Tips

Common mistakes include focusing only on science subjects, failing to consult teaching staff adequately, or not providing sufficient resources for integration. Best practices include identifying subject champions for sustainability, providing cross-curricular training, and linking integration to pupil outcomes. In educational settings, connect curriculum integration with school sustainability projects. Warning signs include limited sustainability coverage, lack of staff confidence in teaching topics, or integration that doesn't reflect current environmental challenges.

Quick Reference Checklist

- [] Review current curriculum maps and integration
- [] Assess coverage across subject areas
- [] Evaluate teaching resources and materials
- [] Consult with subject leaders and staff
- [] Identify gaps and enhancement opportunities
- [] Develop recommendations for improved integration
- [] Upload evidence to Compliance Pod

Grouped Tasks

Grouping is feasible; align with related tasks of the same frequency and contractor visit.

Related Tasks

- Sustainability & Climate Action - Education & Engagement - Pupil & Staff Engagement Sessions on Climate Action
- Sustainability & Climate Action - Education & Engagement - Community & Parent Engagement on Climate Action
- Sustainability & Climate Action - Policy & Governance - Climate Action Plan Annual Review & Update

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