

Climate Change & Sustainability Champion: Role Description

Schools have a crucial role in achieving environmental sustainability. Schools support young people to understand the world and develop skills and attitudes to live fulfilled lives as responsible citizens, able and willing to tackle climate change now and for future generations. Anthem Community Councils can support our schools to support our students in this mission.

In April 2022 (updated 2023) the Department for Education published a policy paper: [Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems](#).

This paper outlines the DfE strategy & goals for a climate-focused education and states:

'The challenge of climate change is formidable. For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth, but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field.'

The role of the Climate Change & Sustainability Champion

The role of the **Climate Change & Sustainability Champion** is to advocate, support and help drive the school's environmental sustainability activities with both the local community and within the school community itself.

ACC Climate Change & Sustainability Champions will:

- Reach out to sustainability/green/eco charities, companies and other stakeholders in the local community and help build connections and networks for the school. Attend (or get involved with) relevant local networking events, council meetings, local charity events etc. Look for ways to collaborate and work together for the benefit of our students and the community.
- Champion all things climate change within all ACC and school activities.
- Look for climate change and sustainability opportunities within the local community for the benefit of the students.
- Keep up to date with local and national sustainability initiatives, resources and requirements.
- Research whether there are any financial assistance/grants available that could assist your school (or all Anthem schools!) with improving our environmental sustainability.
- Raise awareness of and share the latest information and resources for climate change and sustainability matters for ACC members, school staff and students.
- Review your school's current progress in sustainability and climate change (this could include climate education, green skills and careers, estate management, biodiversity, food service, recycling etc). This could be through speaking with staff and students, a questionnaire, survey, external resources or other methods you feel appropriate.
- Provide feedback and ideas on how to make the school and Anthem more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

- Link with any other relevant climate change/sustainability/green leads in the school (students or staff) to share ideas and resources and to collaborate – help build and develop these roles.
- Attend the termly Climate Change & Sustainability Forums and link up with other Climate Change & Sustainability Champions to share ideas and resources and provide support.

The above list is not conclusive, and as and Climate Change & Sustainability Champions you may have other suggestions. Please remember to discuss any proposed actions with the ACC Chair and Headteacher prior to initiating to ensure collaboration.

Who can be a Climate Change & Sustainability Champion?

No specific skills, qualifications or experience are required to be an Climate Change & Sustainability Champion, although it is essential that the person is enthusiastic about climate change and sustainability. It is desirable that the Climate Change & Sustainability Champion has some experience of working or volunteering in an eco or green role, however a passion for the environment is key!

The Climate Change & Sustainability Champion Summary Report

Prior to each ACC meeting, the Climate Change & Sustainability Champion should complete the Climate Change & Sustainability Champion Summary Report and submit this to the Governance Professional at least one week ahead of every ACC meeting. This report is meant to be a simple one-page summary of all that you have done and plan to do, together with a RAG rating of your perception of the school's current progress in sustainability and climate change. This report will also include some key findings and evidence, along with areas to celebrate and lessons learned. Seek support from your ACC Chair or Governance Professional if you need help in completing this. Please don't overthink it or take too long – keep it brief! We know your time is precious!

During the ACC meeting, the ACC members as a collective will discuss and decide a final RAG rating for all Champion areas and record on the ACC Dashboard. The Governance Professional will also record any actions to be taken between meetings on the Support and Challenge Log (SCL). Both the ACC Dashboard and SCL will be finalised at the ACC meeting and then shared with the Headteacher and the Associate Director of Education to feed into the next Collaborative Review Day. A summary of all ACC dashboards is compiled by Anthem's governance team and reported to Trustees to ensure your voice is fully heard across the school and Anthem.

After the ACC meeting, work with fellow ACC members and the HT on any actions agreed during the ACC meeting.