

Our School Improvement Priorities 2026–27

At Lady Joanna Thornhill, we are always looking for ways to make our school even better. Our school improvement planning is driven by one central ambition: to ensure that every pupil receives a high-quality education, feels safe, included and valued, and is supported to achieve their very best.

We build on the things we already do well, while continually reflecting on what could be better. We listen to our pupils, work with families, learn from our staff and use evidence about children's learning and experiences to help us decide where to focus our efforts.

Our three overarching goals for 2026–2028

Our improvement work is guided by three connected goals:

Inclusive Teaching

To develop consistently high-quality inclusive teaching and learning so that every pupil, particularly those with SEND, can achieve highly through effective adaptive teaching.

Curriculum, Learning and Achievement

To strengthen how our curriculum is taught and experienced, ensuring that teaching, assessment, additional support and subject leadership work together to secure strong outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics.

Leadership

To strengthen leadership at all levels through thoughtful evaluation, coaching and responsive action, ensuring that improvements are sustained and make a positive difference to classroom practice and outcomes for pupils.

Our priorities for 2026–27

Priority	What we want to achieve
1. Strengthening adaptive teaching	Develop teaching that responds effectively to the needs of all pupils, through thoughtful planning, effective use of adults and appropriate resources and approaches.
2. Keep-up and catch-up in reading and mathematics	Strengthen additional support so that pupils address gaps in learning, make rapid progress and are able to build on their classroom learning.
3. Developing mathematical fluency	Improve pupils' confidence and secure recall of multiplication and number facts, providing strong foundations for further mathematical learning.
4. Making assessment work harder for pupils	Use assessment effectively to identify gaps, adapt teaching and plan the next steps that will make the greatest difference to pupils' learning.
5. Strengthening our support for vulnerable pupils	Improve how we identify, track and support pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, with a focus on progress, attainment, attendance, wellbeing and access to wider opportunities.
6. Consistent, relational behaviour	Embed consistent expectations, routines and responses so that every pupil feels safe, secure and ready to learn.
7. Developing leadership and monitoring	Strengthen leadership through purposeful monitoring, professional discussion, coaching and feedback, ensuring that improvements are embedded and sustained.

How we keep improving

Our school improvement plan is dynamic rather than fixed. Our three overarching goals provide a clear direction for the next two years, but we know that the needs of our pupils and the world around them continue to change.

We regularly review our priorities by looking at children's learning and progress, listening to pupil voice, gathering feedback and talking with staff. This helps us recognise what is working well, where we need to do more and whether we need to adapt our approach.

School improvement is not simply about completing a list of actions. It is about understanding the difference our work makes, learning from what we find and continually looking for ways to improve.

Alongside our main priorities, we continue to develop other important areas of school life, including science, writing, sustainability and our wider curriculum and enrichment opportunities. These all contribute to our ambition to provide a rich, broad and engaging education for every child.

Wider projects and development

Alongside our main school improvement priorities, we are working on a number of projects that enrich children's learning, strengthen teaching and support our longer-term ambitions.

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)

We are developing high-quality science across the school, helping children build scientific knowledge, develop enquiry skills and learn to think and work like scientists. We are also continuing to develop teachers' confidence and expertise in teaching science.

Writing and Literacy Difficulties Project

We are continuing to strengthen how we support children with literacy difficulties, developing staff expertise and consistent approaches to writing. Through our work as a lead school in the Kent-wide project, we are also sharing our learning and supporting other schools to develop their practice.

Sustainability and Net Zero

We are continuing our journey towards reducing the school's carbon footprint through our Net Zero Action Plan. We are also helping children understand sustainability and their role in caring for the environment through our curriculum and the work of our Eco-Monitors.

Geography Curriculum Development

We are continuing to develop our geography curriculum so that children build a rich understanding of places, people and the world around them. We want them to develop their geographical knowledge and skills as they move through the school.