



EDITH STEIN **CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

APPROVED BY TRUSTEES	May 2024
SCRUTINISED BY TRUSTEES	May 2024
DATE LAST REVIEWED	May 2024
MEMBER OF STAFF RESPONSIBLE	Headteacher
STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY	Non-Statutory



1.0 Our Commitment

- 1.1 Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust (ESCAT) and its schools is committed to operating in a sustainable and ethical way. We want to ensure that the curriculum in all Trust schools both formal and informal, alongside the business interests of the Trust is such that it addresses the sustainable development challenges.
- 1.2 Our concern for the environment is driven by Catholic Social Teaching (CST), in particular Care for Creation. We aim to follow and promote good sustainability practice, reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and help all our staff, students, Governors, and the wider communities our schools serve. We are ambitious; we aspire to lead the way locally to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.3 As a Catholic Community we are guided by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Pope Francis tells us that concern for the natural world is no longer 'optional' but is an integral part of the Church's teaching on social justice.
- 1.4 It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.
- 1.5 The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, reuse some materials that are currently thrown away, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed and respect our neighbours and our environment.
- 1.6 The Trust recognises it has a part in the government target to reduce greenhouse emissions to net zero by 2050. Net-zero can only be achieved with decarbonisation happening in every place across the country – that's every household, community, business, this includes schools. The Trust recognises that whilst the targets are national, there will have to be greater involvement at a local level with schools engaging in local initiatives.

2.0 Principles

- 2.1 We are guided by the following strategic principles:
 - To increase the environmental awareness of all our staff, students, Governors and our wider school community, actively supporting them to reduce their environmental impact within the school and beyond through the implementation of sustainable environmental practices.
 - To embed sustainability into our schools' core curriculums ensuring that it includes elements of Pope Francis' vision for sustainability.
 - To meet or exceed all environmental legislation, regulations, and Government approved codes of practice.
 - To continuously improve our environmental performance by integrating environmental best practice across our schools.
 - To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
 - To minimise the impact on sustainability on all administration and transportation activities.
 - To make suppliers aware of our Sustainability Policy and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices.
 - To continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.

3.0 Practical Steps and Responsibilities

3.1 Management (including financial management)

- share our expertise across all our schools in the Trust;
- share this policy with all new staff at their induction;
- ensure sustainability issues, most notably climate change, is considered when goods and services are procured;
- work together with all our partners to promote our environmental policy and monitor them against it;
- manage our financial investments in a manner that supports the principles of socially responsible investing.

3.2 Teaching and the curriculum

- ensure that students are educated in the environment, this will involve using their immediate surroundings and context as a learning resource;
- ensure that students are educated about the environment, this will ensure that they develop a knowledge and understanding of the environment;
- we educate for the environment, this will ensure that students develop positive attitudes and behaviours for the environment.

3.3 We will also ensure that students in our schools are:

- provided with opportunities to be involved in sustainability related curricular and wider curricular opportunities;
- working in partnership with our local communities towards sustainable improvements in the local areas of our schools;
- provided with a high-quality learning environment through the discouragement of litter, graffiti, noise, and light pollution to create inspiring learning spaces closely connecting our students to the natural world;
- provided with the opportunity to work towards national awards that recognise the schools' commitment to sustainability.

3.3 Resources

- reduce our consumption of resources and improve the efficiency of the resources that we currently use thereby reducing our carbon emissions from both energy and utility consumption;
- actively manage our waste ensuring it is reduced, reused, or recycled wherever possible;
- seek to measure and act to reduce our carbon footprint;
- manage our operations to reduce pollution; and,
- commit to eliminating single-use plastics from all our schools.

3.4 Premises (including our school grounds)

- actively promote biodiversity and work to improve the landscape of our school grounds by encouraging the restoration of nature and use this as a learning opportunity for all;
- give due consideration to energy efficiency in the design/refurbishment and use of buildings;
- avoid the use of hazardous materials and processes and take all reasonable steps to ensure public and ecological health;
- incorporate sustainable practices (wherever practical) into existing buildings to gain energy and water efficiencies such as display energy equipment and fitting grey water features;
- investigate new opportunities to invest in renewable energy such as solar energy.

3.5 **Transportation**

- encourage the use of 'active transport' by regularly reviewing the provision of facilities for staff and students to encourage cycling and walking to school;
- encourage our partner bus companies to move towards electric buses at the earliest opportunity;
- minimise its emissions from employees travelling to meetings in private vehicles. We wish to minimise this, where possible so meetings can be undertaken remotely;
- encourage the use of public transport to external meetings where feasible and reasonable;
- launch a flexible working policy, so that some staff can work from home where the business case supports it, rather than travelling to work.

3.6 **Re-use**

- outdated or unwanted equipment will be offered to others who might have a use for it;
- schools will implement a second hand uniform scheme where good condition uniform including football boots and trainers, will be collected washed and sold or given to students.

3.7 **Recycle**

- we aim to recycle a range of materials on a regular basis;
- Trust schools will adopt procedures where waste paper can be collected and recycled.

4.0 **Management of Waste and the Impact on the Environment**

- 4.1 The Trust accepts responsibility to protect and sustain the environment whilst carrying out our normal activities.
- 4.2 Trust schools will ensure that their actions comply with all relevant legislation and will endeavor, at all times to promote the use of sustainable resources whilst eliminating or reducing practices that are wasteful or damaging to the environment.
- 4.3 We are committed to minimise any negative effects from our operations at all times by:
- protecting the natural environment
 - reducing the use of natural resources
 - reducing the creation of unnecessary waste at source and point of delivery
 - preventing and/or minimising pollution caused by the Trust's activities
 - promoting the reuse and recycling of products where possible
 - ensuring that management and staff receive training on environmental issues.
- 4.4 The Trust encourages all students and staff to act in a way that will improve rather than harm the environment and will welcome any initiatives that will help achieve this.
- 4.5 We are committed to our sustainable waste management programme and minimising any detrimental impact that schools may cause and putting sound environmental processes in place.

4.6 The main waste streams from school sites are listed below along with our environmental mitigation. The Trust recognises the challenge in the management and relying of waste across schools with different. The main waste streams from school sites are listed below along with our environmental mitigation:

- **Sealed Batteries**

Used as back-up power supplies for electronic access control systems, UPS, power banks and emergency lighting systems. When these batteries become unserviceable, they have to be replaced. Old batteries are stored under controlled conditions until they are collected by a licensed disposal contractor. Schools must endeavour to use a contractor that recycles or repurposes these batteries.

- **Manufactured Products**

The Trust does not directly manufacture any products. We only deal with manufacturers and suppliers who are committed to ensuring that they protect the environment wherever possible. Because of greater environmental awareness more and more products are now being recycled and we will continue to work with our suppliers and service providers to do more.

- **Confidential Waste**

Waste paper such as obsolete files and documentation is collected separately for secure disposal by recognised reclamation contractors.

- **Reducing Waste Paper**

We are constantly striving to reduce the amount of waste paper created by our work across the Trust. As a result of this we are encouraging our schools to focus on paperless systems.

- **Food Waste**

When food is left over from in school events, every effort will be made to send this on to local foodbanks, night shelters or homeless hostels. Within permitted guidelines school canteens are encouraged to eliminate waste, for example, some hot food can be served up cold the following day

- **Single-Use Plastics**

Trust schools will work with our suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastic containers and packaging.

- **General Waste**

General waste is collected locally and transferred to bulk collection points by a recognised contractor for sorting so it has the minimum environmental impact. Some schools may be part of scheme where some waste is incinerated to power heating and electrical generation schemes. Science Departments, Design Technology Departments and Maintenance Departments who generate hazardous waste will use recognized contractors for the removal of the same.

5.0 Monitoring

5.1 Trust schools are expected to monitor and evaluate the impact of this policy and report back to Local Governing Bodies at least once a year.

- 5.2 This could include:
- schools surveying students to gauge the visibility of environmental policies and the impact they have on students and the wider community;
 - reviewing the impact of curriculum content that directly focusing on environmental and sustainability;
 - reporting on the frequency of assemblies where environmental issues are discussed;
 - considering the impact of specific environmental projects within school, for example recycling;
 - reporting on procurement procedures that support suppliers with low carbon footprint, or who source goods and services locally;
 - reporting on school infra structure projects that reduce carbon footprint;
 - progress on removing single use or plastic waste.
- 5.3 Trustees will Receive a yearly report from the CEO/CFO:
- recording energy consumption across the Trust with comparative data;
 - detailing innovative curriculum initiatives across schools that support the policy;
 - noting the number of Trust schools that have received external recognition or validation of environmental and sustainability projects;
 - detailing school compliance on the management of waste.