



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Environmental and Sustainability Policy July 2024



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Trust Mission Statement

We are a partnership of Catholic schools.

Our aim is to provide the very best Catholic education for all in our community and so improve life chances through spiritual, academic and social development.

By placing the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre of all that we do, we will:

- Follow the example of Our Lady of Lourdes by nurturing everyone in a spirit of compassion, service and healing
- Working together so that we can all achieve our full potential, deepen our faith and realise our God given talents
- Make the world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable in our society, by doing 'little things with great love' St Therese of Lisieux

Numbers 35:33-34 ESV

You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the Lord dwell in the midst of the people of Israel.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust has a strategic vision to make the world a better place, making a significant contribution to both national and global efforts to achieve environmental sustainability.
- 1.2. We will achieve this through the curriculum by cultivating a deep understanding of nature, sustainability, and the causes and effects of climate change, empowering students to translate this knowledge into meaningful action and solutions.
- 1.3. We will work towards making the Trust estate carbon neutral through the adoption of green technologies, reducing waste, utilising renewable energy sources and reducing the amount of energy we use.
- 1.4. We will actively work to reduce our carbon impact by challenging all areas of the Trust and the wider supply chain to operate more sustainably.
- 1.5. We will educate our young people to be aware of the global implications of climate change and encourage them to take action beyond the realm of the Trust and to make the world a better place, especially for those less fortunate than ourselves.

2. Environmental statement

- 2.1. Our Trust will be place where we have a positive impact on the environment and where we instil in all, the courage to be an agent of change. We will be outward-facing and work to make the world a better place. We are committed to going beyond net-zero, ensuring our entire environmental footprint is carbon neutral without investing in external carbon offset initiatives. We will work with our schools, pupils, diocese and beyond to develop Trust-wide sustainability. We will actively encourage others to share our values and to live them. In doing so, we will make the world a better place.
- 2.2. In addition to our environmental policy, we have established a strategic action plan for creating a sustainable future, celebrating the excellent work we are already doing and setting our roadmap towards carbon neutrality. This action plan can be accessed within the environmental sustainability section on the CMAT website.

3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The Estates and Finance Committee is responsible for the approval and review of the Environmental Policy and for reviewing and monitoring the Trust's activities. The Committee reviews progress towards achieving the Trust's sustainability action plan and monitors the Trust's carbon emissions reporting.
- 3.2. The Chief Operating Officer leads on sustainability, working closely with the Estates Manager other key members of the central team, headteachers and school environmental leads. The Chief Operating Officer will challenge and develop partnerships within the supply chain to ensure all aspects of the Trusts works are sustainable.

- 3.3. The Director of Estates leads on the development of decarbonisation projects and initiatives, working towards achieving a carbon neutral estate. The Director of Estates is responsible for our carbon emissions reporting.
- 3.4. The Directors of Performance and Standards, working in partnership with our headteachers are responsible for the development of a curriculum that develops a deep understanding of environmental sustainability and empowers students to utilise this knowledge to develop action and solutions.
- 3.5. The Lead lay-chaplains will work with the young people to develop social Activism, working to make the world a better place.
- 3.6. Our environmental leads, based in each of our schools will promote awareness at a local level, leading on the development of school specific projects that promote and develop an understanding of the environment and long term sustainability.
- 3.7. Our pupil led eco-council will hold the Trust and schools to account, acting as stewards and monitoring progress towards our sustainability targets.

4. Energy and Carbon reporting

- 4.1. The CMAT falls within Energy and Carbon Report Regulations 2018 and must publish streamlined energy and carbon reporting (SECR) as part of its annual report and financial statements.
- 4.2. The ESFA encourages large academy trusts to reproduce the energy and carbon disclosures from their accounts in a readily accessible format on their website before 31 March each year. The CMAT is committed to being open and transparent and the latest energy and carbon reports are accessible on our website via the following link: <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/governance/statutory-documents/>
- 4.3. As a minimum the CMAT will publish:
 - Our annual energy use in kWh and associated greenhouse gas emissions. This will cover the purchase of gas and electricity and the fuel used for transport relating to the work of the CMAT.
 - Our intensity ratio, as Tonnes CO₂e per pupil.
 - Our methodology for calculating the information.
 - A narrative, describing the measures implemented to improve energy efficiency during the period of the report.
 - Prior year equivalent figures as a means of comparison.

5. Curriculum and Learning

- 5.1. Through the curriculum, we aim to cultivate a deep understanding of nature, sustainability, and the causes and effects of climate change, empowering students to translate this knowledge into meaningful action and solutions.

5.2. Our schools will develop an environmental curriculum delivering the knowledge and skills to enable our pupils to take action, develop solutions and prepare them for the future careers in a more sustainable world.

5.3. As part of our commitment the CMAT will provide CPD opportunities for staff so that they are equipped with the knowledge and expertise to integrate education for sustainable development into their teaching practice.

6. Food and Catering

6.1. The CMAT will work in partnership with all our catering providers to minimise the environmental impact of our school meals service by:

- Buying local produce and ingredients and thus reducing the footprint of each meal served
- Minimising waste by producing only what is required
- Reducing the reliance on animal products
- Ensuring the quality of the meals served is high to reduce plate waste
- Ensuring portion size is age appropriate to reduce plate waste
- Eliminating the use of single use plastics

7. Waste and Recycling

7.1. The Trust accepts responsibility to protect and sustain the environment whilst carrying out our normal activities. Management and staff will ensure that our actions comply with all relevant legislation and will endeavour, at all times, and promote the use of sustainable resources whilst eliminating or reducing practices that are wasteful or damaging to the environment. We are committed to minimise any negative effects from our operations at all times by:

- protecting the natural environment
- participate in a Calander of initiatives that regenerate nature
- 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

7.2. The Trust encourages all members of its workforce to act in a way that will improve rather than harm the environment and will welcome any initiatives that will help achieve this. We are committed to our sustainable waste management programme and minimising any detrimental impact that our business may cause and putting sound environmental processes in place.

8. Energy and Water

8.1. The CMAT is committed and determined to reduce its reliance on natural resources and thus decreasing our impact on the sustainability of the planet. We are working to

eradicate the use of fossil fuels and are investing in renewable energy. Where we do purchase energy, we will prioritise the purchase of green energy.

8.2. Further, we are committed to exploring methods of water conservation, reducing our consumption and exploring opportunities to utilise rainwater across our estate.

8.3. We task all in our schools to minimise the use of energy and water across our Trust and we will work in collaboration to develop and embed initiatives that reduce our consumption.

9. Transport and Travel

9.1. The Trust covers a relatively large geographical area with schools spread across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. This requires some travel for key personnel and the Trust accepts responsibility to minimise its emissions from employees travelling to meetings in private vehicles, the daily commute and will look to adopt green technologies to reduce emissions from our small maintenance fleet. We will do this by:

- adopting hybrid working practices
- utilising technology to work from home
- encourage online meetings
- purchase hybrid or low emission maintenance vehicles.

10. Buildings and Grounds

10.1 The vast majority of buildings within the CMAT estate are older than 30 years and were not designed with sustainability in mind. The CMAT is committed to ensuring the Trust estate is carbon neutral and has demonstrated this commitment through a number of projects that have reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency. The CMAT will continue this strategic approach, utilising available funding and grants.

- Ensure that all developments take into account sustainable construction principles and avoid the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes
- New buildings will be carbon-neutral
- Where facilities are redeveloped or redeployed, we will ensure that energy usage within the building envelope is reduced through the adoption of green technologies, and this will form a key part of our project option appraisals
- Ensure that existing facilities are as efficient as possible through the development of sustainable buildings
- Manage our grounds in an environmentally and biodiversity-sensitive manner, championing initiatives that will lead to the regeneration and sustainability of nature.