



Reducing Carbon Emissions in Our School Estate

*Decisions we make today lay the
foundations of tomorrow.*



St John Fisher Catholic College is part of the growing global community that is taking positive action to tackle the negative effects of climate change. Environmental sustainability has been identified as a core objective for the school community and the wider CtKCC community and we are working hard to embed environmental sustainability into our thinking and actions.

St John Fisher Catholic College is committed to minimising the effects of our operation on the environment and playing our part in achieving the Public Sector's Net Zero Targets.

Schools are often seen as a trailblazer for change in a local community, with lessons learnt in the classroom filtering out into the home. As a Catholic school, we have a central role to play in educating our learners, staff, parents/carers and other stakeholders about the importance of sustainability. The following points address the ways in which we, as a Catholic school community, will address our contribution towards environmental sustainability and climate change.

Our Buildings

With an aging School Estate, the requirement for a reduction in carbon omissions presents a number of problems, with limited funds available for full component replacements. However, as a school, we are keen to implement change wherever possible and thus, have identified the following items for action.

- Make efficient use of existing space and increasing the use of shared facilities.
- Establish clear expectations relating to environmental sustainability with Project Design Teams at the offset.
- Incorporate sustainability objectives into tendering and procurement processes; ensure that all new build projects achieve a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'.
- Adopt appropriate energy saving and sustainable power generation technologies within building services design so far as practicably possible.
- Ensure the progressive refurbishment and enhancement of existing 'end of life' buildings (that are not being replaced) in order to achieve a higher level of energy performance (e.g. increase insulation, install energy efficient lighting).

- Standardise common plant systems to provide continuity of assets (e.g. increasing life cycle; reducing maintenance liability).
- Reduce and reuse 'end of life' construction materials on site (e.g. using demolition materials as hard core).
- Compel contractors to report accurately on their waste management processes during the construction process (e.g. volumes and material types to landfill).

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – these three 'R' words are an important part of sustainable living, as they help to cut down on the amount of waste we have to throw away.

- Reduce the amount of waste produced.
- Reuse items as much as you can before replacing them.
- Recycle items wherever possible.

Reduce

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it! Therefore we have looked at the various ways in which the school can make a difference. We have set up an Eco Committee to look at further developments and have established an action plan for the Cafod Live Simply Award.

Energy

- Turning off lights and power to electrical items when not in use. PC turned off rather than sleep mode.
- Using daylight in classroom where possible to save on electricity.
- Shutting doors & windows in colder weather.
- Curtains and blinds are used to keep rooms at a comfortable temperature.
- Ensuring taps are only run whilst in use and hot water is only in use when needed.
- Setting the heating when necessary to 18°C for normal teaching days.
- Labels are provided to switches ensuring only needed appliances/lights are used and correct usage and turning off instructions.
- Kitchen appliances are only used when required and our freezers are defrosted regularly.
- Review energy usage annually to ensure reduction efforts are effective and tariffs are competitive.

Paper

- Writing on both sides of paper where possible.
- Using text message service and email service where possible to inform parents/carers.

Transport

- Encouraging learners and staff to take alternative methods to get to school as a priority item, reducing local road congestion and pollution, with use of bicycle sheds.
- Reward schemes for learners who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- Car sharing where possible on routes to work or whilst attending courses.
- Taking part in the Bikeability scheme to encourage safe cycling with our learners and staff.

Re-use

It makes economic and environmental sense to reuse products. There are various ways in which our school can encourage staff, parents/carers and children to re-use various types of waste materials.

Litter

Recycling bins are located in and around the School and its grounds, encouraging learners to think about what they are consuming and where their rubbish will go. There is an awareness that objects categorised as recycling will not go on to landfill.

Donated material including containers

Old yogurt pots, butter containers and milk bottles are used for art supplies and storage at our school where possible. These can be donated by learners or from the community. Where items can't be used they will be recycled correctly.

Paper

- One sided pieces of paper are used for scrap with the priority of using sides of paper always first option.
- Where coloured sheets have been used, where possible will be saved for future displays made by the learners.

Recycle

It is clear that pupils who learn about waste and recycling in the School setting are more likely to adopt it as a habit in their everyday life.

At St John Fisher Catholic College, learners are aware of their recycling responsibilities; that their actions prevent waste material being sent to landfill sites. With this in mind, we encourage all external partners, be it suppliers, contractors etc. to hold the same standards.

The following items are examples of waste reduction:

- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers and locally as much as possible.
- Ensuring a year-on-year increase in the proportion of school recycling.
- Reducing printer paper consumption per learner/staff headcount year on year.
- Encouraging Contractors to seek efficiencies by not over-ordering material, damaging materials by mishandling and reducing unnecessary packaging of construction materials.

The following items are examples of our recycling:

- Paper collection bins are emptied into the recycling bins.
- Computer printer cartridges / toners are stored safely and recycled using collection services.
- Old t-shirts / jumpers that are donated are reused as scrap material for cleaning or arts and crafts.
- PTFA hold regular uniform sales for all parents and carers to encourage the recycling of learners' clothing.
- Where items are suitable for reselling the ECO committee help to collect old clothes, shoes & bags, collection is then arranged with bag 2 school to raise money for our school.

Restore

- Any areas of the school that are damaged, where possible, are restored to the original condition.
- Our boilers are serviced annually, which not only extends the life of the boiler but this can also save money on the energy bill getting maximum efficiency.
- Maintenance is carried out on dripping taps to cut water costs and save energy.
- Walk around by members of staff are carried out monthly to check areas such as windows panes, skylights, roofs and skirting for maintenance requires where energy can be lost easily.
- Our staff report faulty/broken equipment, this is replaced where possible so long-lasting damage doesn't occur.

Relocate

- Printers and photocopies are stored in a well-ventilated areas in the school with good airflow to prevent overheating.
- Classrooms are laid out in a way that radiators aren't obstructed, thermostats are effective and learners/teachers are not affected by the temperatures.