



Academy Sustainability Policy

for ACT and the following Academies:

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
St Helens Catholic Primary School
Holy Family Catholic Primary School
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
ST Joseph's Catholic Primary School
St Georges Catholic Primary School
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School
St Thomas More High School

Assisi Catholic Trust Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire the children in our care and that our schools place Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of all we do. We believe that every child has a right to educational excellence, and we are committed in partnership to ensure this happens.

Motto

‘Start doing what is necessary, then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible’

Document Management:

Date Policy Approved:	November 2025
Next Review Date:	November 2026
Version:	01
Approving Body:	ACT Resources Committee



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Statement of intent

At Assisi Catholic Trust we are committed to educating our pupils about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

We encourage both pupils and staff to think about the environment and how their actions will impact upon their local surroundings, as well as the global environment.

Effective use of this policy will ensure pupils are taught about environmental sustainability, promote an eco-friendly attitude, and ensure that the school itself is as sustainable as it can be.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- DfE (2012) 'Top tips for sustainability in schools'
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- DfE (2022) 'Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Pupil Code of Conduct
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety Policy
- Records Management Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

Each school within the trust is responsible for:

- Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.
- Including and engaging staff, governors, pupils, parents, and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations.
- Sharing good practice with pupils, parents, and the community, and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy.
- Promoting awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities.
- Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practising policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.
- Preparing pupils for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach pupils about environmental concerns.
- Ensuring that staff and pupils understand the importance of energy conservation, for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.
- Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and pupils to follow.
- Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.
- Ensuring that the site manager understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

The Estates Team is responsible for:

- Monitoring and reviewing each school's energy usage.
- Identifying, with the site manager/caretaker, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this, such as installing motion sensor lights.
- Checking the environmental standards of suppliers and contractors.
- Ensuring the heating systems are monitored by the site manager to ensure the school remains at a comfortable temperature.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
- Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably, for example, ensuring that computers are turned off when not in use.

The Site Manager/ Caretaker is responsible for:

- Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.
- Recording energy use.
- Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.
- Arranging and coordinating waste disposal from the premises and ensuring that all waste is disposed of correctly.
- Maintaining the overall cleanliness of the school premises.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible.
- Using energy sustainably, for example, not leaving taps running.

Parents are responsible for:

- Promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle at home.
- Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, when possible.
- Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle.
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

3. Waste and recycling

We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- Using emails, Using the school's website and parent text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.
- Only printing documents when it is essential.
- Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- Where possible, encouraging pupils to share worksheets.
- Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.

Each school will ensure that there are water fountains or fresh water available for pupils to drink from and refill their water bottles. Pupils will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles. Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled.

There will be clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.

Each school will display posters explaining important environmental considerations, for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.

Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

4. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

WEEE is regulated to reduce the number of devices and equipment that is incinerated or sent to landfill sites. To reduce the Trust's carbon footprint and minimise the impact on global warming, the necessary steps are taken to ensure WEEE is disposed of properly.

The types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) the Trust will safely dispose of include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Desktop computers
- Servers
- Laptops
- Monitors
- Printers
- Projectors
- Scanners
- Interactive whiteboards

The Trust IT Manager will find a suitable local partner, e.g. a producer of EEE that manufactures and sells EEE under their own brand, to dispose of WEEE safely.

Before choosing a partner to dispose of WEEE, the Trust IT Manager will review the potential partner's risk assessments and procedures to determine whether the school's WEEE and any data stored will be handled and disposed of correctly.

Once a partner is selected and WEEE is ready to be removed from the school, the Trust IT Manager will undertake a risk assessment in collaboration with the partner to ensure all EEE is removed safely and securely from the school.

WEEE which hold personal data, or data the school needs to fulfil legal obligations, e.g. relating to safeguarding, are reviewed by the DPO to ensure the data is no longer needed or has been backed up. Data is securely deleted or backed up in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

5. Littering

The Trust understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence.

Every member of each school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly. Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in the appropriate bin, e.g. recycling bins.
- Using resources thoughtfully.
- Reusing resources where possible.
- Assisting the site manager and eco committee with the cleanliness of the premises.
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Each school will appoint eco ambassadors consisting of staff members and pupils, who are responsible for:

- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school.

- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listening and responding to questions from the school council.
- Organising and recruiting volunteers for litter picking groups.
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To mitigate risks of littering, each school will implement the following procedures:

- Designated eating areas – pupils and staff will only be permitted to eat in these areas to prevent unwanted litter.
- Waste disposal – bins will be provided throughout schools, with additional bins provided in eating areas, to ensure sufficient availability for waste disposal.

Each school will raise awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters.

Any individual known to have littered premises will be required to dispose of the litter correctly.

6. Transport

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to walk to school, where possible.

The Trust will encourage teachers and other members of staff to car share whenever possible, for example, when travelling to external training days.

Each school will have suitable and safe storage for staff and pupils to store bicycles.

Each school recognises that there are risks involved when individuals choose to walk or cycle to school; therefore, road safety lessons will be organised in PSHE.

7. School grounds

The Estates Team along with the site manager/caretaker will monitor the consumption of energy within each school, recognising where the school is wasting energy and implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, e.g. introducing motion sensitive lights.

Energy saving lightbulbs will be used throughout each school.

The Estates Team along with the site manager/caretaker will monitor heating within each school, assessing whether it is at an appropriate temperature and frequency and adjusting it accordingly.

When new buildings or refurbishments are being planned, the Trust will always consider any environmental impacts and will consult an expert.

8. Healthy living

The Trust will promote an ethos of environmental understanding. Pupils will be taught to understand that their actions have a direct impact upon the environment. The school will discourage environmental indifference and promote the importance of understanding the impact that everyone has on the environment.

The Trust will encourage staff and pupils to adopt healthy lifestyles, as healthy lifestyles often lead to a sustainable lifestyle, for example, walking instead of driving.

The school will ensure pupils get at least 60 minutes of moderate exercise a day, in line with NHS recommendations.

9. Energy

The Trust will reduce our energy usage by:

- Switching off lights when they're not in use.
- Keeping doors and windows shut in cold weather and installing draught excluders so that warm air is retained.

- Turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors, and interactive white boards, when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the temperature and frequency of heating in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- Conserving water by installing systems that reduce waste such as cistern dams and flow restrictors.
- Insulating hot water pipes to reduce water waste when running a tap, as well as reducing the likelihood of frozen pipes in winter.
- Ensuring all systems work efficiently, and any breakages or leaks are resolved as a matter of high priority by the Estates manager.
- Auditing the amount of energy used each term.
- Upgrading the school's heating system to a modern, more efficient system, including a smart meter, to reduce emissions.
- Switching to high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP) (HE CHP) or CHP based on renewable energy sources, or gas-fired CHP only.
- Increasing the share of electricity from renewable energy sources or biomass.
- Displaying information around schools and classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- Monitoring the environmental sustainability of suppliers and adjusting procurement arrangements accordingly.
- Making all members of each school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.
- Appointing an individual, e.g. the site manager, to ensure that these measures are carried out.

The Trust will display the Display Energy Certificate in plain sight in each school reception area

10. Reducing carbon emissions

The Trust is committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions. Emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing renewable technologies that export surplus energy to the national grid.
- Implementing a rewards system for pupils who reduce carbon emissions by walking, cycling, or taking public transport to school.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.
- Promoting the benefits of recycling.
- Sourcing school supplies from UK suppliers as much as possible.

11. Sustainable procurement of goods

The Trust will devote our time to ensuring all product procurement is done in the most sustainable way, ensuring orders are not processed with unnecessary purchases listed on them.

The purchasing team will ensure that produce bought is cost efficient, sourced from within the UK where possible and bought from a company with an energy efficient ethos.

The purchasing team will avoid buying branded products where quality is not compromised. The purchasing team will obtain contracts with suppliers that stipulate their terms of purchase, paying regard to pricing, quality, and their returns policy.

Paper

The Trust is committed to:

- Purchasing paper that is 100 percent recycled and eco-certified.
- Purchasing paper that is produced through a process of low energy consumption and emissions.

- Avoiding certain substances in paper production, e.g. bleach.
- Purchasing paper based on recycled paper or paper based on sustainability harvested virgin fibre.
- Ensuring that manufacturers state 'ecological responsibility' wherever possible.
- Ensuring that paper is, at a minimum, Elementary Chlorine Free (ECF) or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).

Lighting

The Trust is committed to:

- Using lighting controls to reduce energy consumption.
- Replacing light bulbs with low energy alternatives.
- At the installation stage, ensuring the system works energy efficiently.
- Promoting the use of lamps with low mercury content.
- Recycling all waste products appropriately.

Transport

The Trust is committed to:

- Purchasing low emission vehicles (GHG, other exhaust gases and noise).
- Procuring environmentally friendly tyres and regenerated lubricant oils.
- Ensuring the correct collection and management of used lubricant oils and tyres.
- Purchasing environmentally friendlier fuels.

Office equipment

The Trust is committed to:

- Buying energy efficient models.
- Buying products which have a low impact on the environment through their life cycle.
- Buying recyclable products with a long lifespan and recyclable packaging.
- Buying products with a restricted amount of hazardous material.
- Buying products with restricted noise emissions.

Furniture

The Trust is committed to:

- Buying furniture that is produced with environmentally friendly material and processes.
- Using materials which are partly or wholly made from recycled/renewable materials.
- Making sure that all furniture purchased is repairable and recyclable.
- Purchasing timber from legal and sustainable managed forests.
- Ensuring that packaging material is based on renewable raw materials and can be suitably recycled.
- Avoiding possibly hazardous substances in both production and surface treatment.

Cleaning products

The Trust is committed to:

- Using products produced in the UK.
- Using the recommended amounts of products and minimising use where possible.
- Using products which can be used at lower temperatures.
- Minimising the use of hazardous chemicals in cleaning and dishwashing products.
- Avoiding phosphorous and limiting biocides.

- Making sure that packaging made from recyclable materials is recycled.
- Purchasing sprays without propellants.
- Ensuring that no substances in products are identified as 'volatile organic compounds'.

Gardening products

Our Trust is committed to:

- Buying peat-free products.
- Buying products which come in packages which are compostable, recyclable or biodegradable.
- Buying organically produced plants.
- Using alternative methods of pest control to pesticides.
- Using low-noise, low-emission, and low-consumption machinery.

Textiles

The Trust is committed to:

- Buying fair trade textiles.
- Buying textiles with lower residues of substances harmful to human health.
- Buying textiles with a reduced use of environmentally harmful substances in production.
- Buying textiles/materials that can be reused, or which have been previously used.
- Reusing purchased items, e.g. uniforms, ties, and school bags.

12. Curriculum

In our Catholic schools, biodiversity and sustainability are usually integrated across several curriculum areas rather than being confined to one subject. Here are the main areas where pupils would typically be taught knowledge, skills, and understanding related to these themes:

Science

- Ecosystems, food chains, habitats, species interdependence, and the impact of human activity on biodiversity.
- Climate change, renewable energy, conservation strategies.

Geography

- Human-environment interactions, land use, global warming, sustainable development, and resource management.
- Case studies on deforestation, pollution, and conservation efforts.

Religious Education (RE)

- Catholic Social Teaching principles such as stewardship of creation.
- Ethical responsibility for caring for the Earth and promoting sustainability.

Design & Technology

- Sustainable materials and eco-friendly design.
- Life-cycle analysis of products and reducing waste.

Citizenship / PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

- Global citizenship, environmental responsibility, and sustainable living practices.
- Discussions on climate justice and fairness.

Mathematics

- Data handling and statistics related to environmental issues (e.g., carbon emissions, population growth).

- Modelling sustainability scenarios.

Art & Literature

- Creative projects highlighting nature and environmental themes.
- Literature exploring human-nature relationships and ethical considerations.

13. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Executive Leadership Team and Trust Board

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy.

The scheduled review date for this policy is November 2026