



Sustainability Policy

Our Vision

Formation - Inspiration - Transformation

Our Mission

We develop individual excellence, embrace opportunities and build strong communities with Gospel Values at the heart.

Our Values

Respect - Innovation - Courage - Trust



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Sustainability Policy

Our vision: To grow communities of faith committed to justice, stewardship, and the renewal of the Earth entrusted to us.

Our Mission: At HFCMAT we strive to empower every learner, educator, and community to lead the transition to a sustainable future, where our schools are models of environmental stewardship, climate action, and social responsibility. Inspired by our Catholic faith, we nurture a deep respect for God's creation, promote justice for the poor and vulnerable, and work collaboratively to build a sustainable future where all life can flourish.

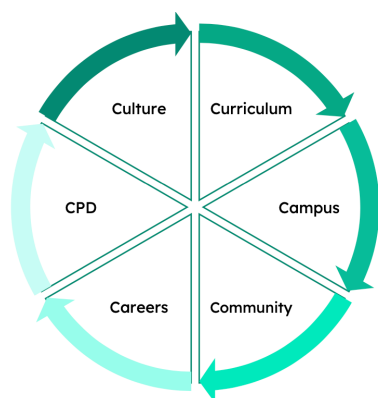
Rooted in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, we integrate sustainability into everything we do (teaching, operations, and culture) by:

- *Educating hearts and minds to recognise the sacredness of creation and the call to stewardship.*
- *Embedding ecological awareness, care for our common home, and sustainable practices across our curriculum, culture, and daily life.*
- *Reducing our environmental impact through responsible resource use, energy conservation, and commitment to net zero.*
- *Fostering a spirit of solidarity and action within our communities to address climate change and environmental injustice.*
- *Inspiring hope and empowering every person to protect and renew the gift of creation for future generations.*

Our work is guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and Pope Francis's call in Laudato Si'.

HFCMAT is 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.

Our sustainability Strategy focuses on 6 key areas.



Culture

Goal: To embed ecological stewardship into the spiritual and ethical DNA of the Trust.

Strategic leadership is the cornerstone of our environmental commitment. The Trust's Sustainability Lead facilitates a sustainability team, integrating expertise from Estates, Procurement, and individual School Leads to ensure sustainability is woven into every operational decision. In alignment with the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, every HFCMAT school maintains a Climate Action Plan. Sustainability leads meet half-termly to drive accountability, share best practices, and foster high-impact collaborations that transform school communities into models of ecological stewardship.

Campus

Goal: To reach Net Zero by 2030 through radical efficiency and nature recovery.

Decarbonisation and an increase in biodiversity are not just operational targets; they are moral, financial, and educational imperatives. They represent the "practical faith" required to protect our common home for future generations. The trust is working towards improving the carbon footprint of our estates and practices in the following ways.

Decarbonisation & Energy Efficiency

- Establishing a clear roadmap to achieve Net Zero by 2030 (operational) and 2040 (full supply chain)
- Encouraging sustainable travel among staff and pupils.
- Increase the efficiency of the buildings and infrastructure across the estate, including water efficiency, and ensure all users are aware of behaviours required to maintain energy efficiency.
- Working in collaboration with catering companies create the proportion of plant based, sustainably and ethically sourced menu choices and work with suppliers to reduce energy consumption and waste in our kitchens.
- Including sustainability criteria as part of all procurement processes and to seek to procure goods and services from suppliers with robust and ambitious environmental management, corporate social responsibility and net zero plans in place.
- Reducing production of waste and increase re-use and recycling.

Adaptation & Climate Resilience

- Conducting climate risk assessments for every site to identify vulnerabilities to flash flooding, overheating (solar gain), and extreme wind
- Prioritising nature-based solutions for temperature control, such as strategic tree planting for shade and living green walls to reduce the "urban heat island" effect on playground surfaces

Biodiversity & Nature Recovery

- Using the Nature Education Parks programme to turn "grey spaces into green spaces", boosting biodiversity across school grounds
- Developing spaces in out school grounds to support an increase in connectedness to nature

Circular Resource Management

- Standardising waste streams across all schools, aiming for a 90% recycling rate and a total elimination of single-use plastics in estate operations.
- Exploring "Grade A" refurbished IT hardware (laptops, iPads) which can save up to **70% of the carbon footprint** compared to new devices.
- Work towards a trust-wide inventory where schools can "claim" furniture or resources no longer needed by another school before buying new

Curriculum

Goal: To empower students with the knowledge to solve the climate crisis.

Sustainability is a green thread that runs through school curricula to help students recognise their interconnectedness with all of God's creation. It is rooted in the teachings of Laudato Si', going beyond teaching environmental facts to ensure that students are empowered to create a more sustainable future together.

- Sustainability Leads work alongside teachers to strategically embed sustainability across the curriculum
- Schools engage in a wide range of programmes and initiatives such as Eco Schools, Living Streets, Plastic Free Schools and Woodland Trust Green Tree Awards.
- Students are provided with real world opportunities to apply their sustainability knowledge and learn more through trust wide annual events such as Chester Zoo Takeover Day, HFCMAT COP and the Green Careers Fair.
- The Season of Creation is part of the trust's academic calendar and is celebrated annually

HFCMAT Changemakers

The HFCMAT Changemakers is a bespoke, year-long programme delivered in partnership with Chester Zoo and the University of Manchester. Built on a Schools Citizen Assembly model, it empowers students to tackle complex sustainability issues through research, critical thinking, and compassionate collaboration. The program provides students with the practical skills to lead transformative change and develop sustainable solutions within their own school environments

Community

Goal: To be a beacon of sustainability for families and the Diocese.

A focus on community acts as the bridge between school life and the wider world. It ensures that our ecological efforts do not stop at the school gates but radiate outward to families, parishes, and the global community, reflecting the Catholic principle of Solidarity.

- Every school will strive to achieve and maintain the CAFOD LiveSimply Award, demonstrating a public commitment to living "simply, sustainably, and in solidarity" with our local community
- We will foster active links between school Eco-Councils and Parish groups, collaborating on joint projects
- As a Trust, we will share our decarbonisation journey and estate management data with the Diocese of Shrewsbury to assist other Catholic organisations in their own sustainability transitions

CPD

Goal: To equip staff with the expertise to help build sustainable futures across our schools.

CPD is more than professional training, it is Formation. We aim to nourish the support our staff in helping them to see their work as a vital contribution to the healing of the world, being stewards of creation.

- Carbon Literacy Training provided for key leads across the trust.
- Sharing of best practice through half termly meetings with Sustainability Leads.
- Access to a wide range of sustainability courses through the National College.
- Support from the Climate Ambassadors Network, giving access to volunteer climate experts to the development of climate action plans
- Partnership with Chester Zoo- giving schools bespoke support for their curriculums

Careers

Goal: To prepare students with the skills for a green economy.

This is about framing work as a vocation, a way for students to use their talents to serve the common good and protect "Our Common Home."

- Trust Career Lead working towards embedding Green Pathways into Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Schools collaborate with **local partners** (e.g., Chester Zoo, local green tech firms) to provide work experience and apprenticeships focused on sustainability.
- Green Career fairs and experiences with green industry are planned into the trust's career programme