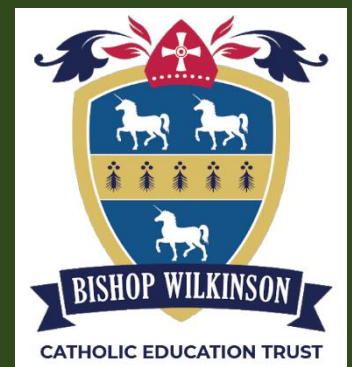




**St. Joseph's Catholic
Infant & Junior Schools
Birtley**

**Sustainability and Climate
Change Strategy**

March 2025



Statement of intent



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



OUR MISSION

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone, to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome in this place.

OUR VISION

Lord, in our daily lives, may we:

Love and serve like St. Joseph, care and protect like St. Joseph, work and teach like St. Joseph, show compassion and loyalty like St. Joseph, have trust and faith like St. Joseph.

We follow St. Joseph's virtues and remember our significance in God's world. Amen.



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley takes its sustainability and climate change responsibilities very seriously. As described in the DfE guidance (2023), we all have a role to play in reducing our environmental footprint, particularly in the drive to achieve net zero.

The DfE's strategy runs until 2030 ([Click here](#)). It brings together 4 strategic aims and overarching vision.

Action area 1: Climate education

Action area 2: Green skills and careers

Action area 3: Education estate and digital infrastructure

Action area 4: Operations and supply chains

Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2025

Impact, reviewing and reporting on our strategies:

The scheme will be monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed frequently. The review of the scheme will cover:

Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Evaluation 2027
Action Area 1: Climate Education				
Ensure pupils have access to climate education throughout their education to enable them to develop appropriate understanding of the causes and consequences of physical and human geography.	Ensure that teaching of climate change is a regular occurrence during humanities, Religious Education and RHE refers to climate education and human behavioural change. To ensure that the 'Universal Church' unit of study is taught in Religious Education summer term, emphasising the need to protect God's creation. To train pupils to become ambassadors for looking after the Earth and God's creation.	Pupils will be able to articulate some of the causes, consequences and reasons for climate change. Pupils will begin to take responsibility for caring for God's earth.	Ongoing	
Review all policies to ensure they reflect our commitment to climate education.	Governors to review policies in line with our review timetable.	Policies are just, fair and equitable and are fully embedded in the life of the school.	As soon as is reasonably possible.	
Action Area 2: Green skills and careers				
Ensure all future building work renovations are as 'green' as able.	Liaise with architect to ensure that accessibility is paramount in any new development. Ensure that where able, builders for estates given appropriate commitments to 'green choices' and appropriate recycling of old materials.	School is reassured that tradesman are fully committed to a reduction in carbon emissions when repairing and maintaining aspects of the school site.	Ongoing	
To ensure that Mini-Vinnies continue to develop the 'green areas' within our school community.	To continue to build on the success of God's Creation garden.	The school demonstrates to pupils how small-scale allotments can have a large impact and that pupils recognise the benefits of becoming increasingly self-sufficient in the production of vegetables, and fruit (where able).	Ongoing	
To improve access to and within careers within STEM that promote Climate Change consequences.	The school will take into account and actively promote careers that support carbon net zero commitments.	All members of the school community will be able to access all areas of school.	Ongoing	
Action area 3: Education estate and digital infrastructure				
To ensure the current buildings run as efficiently and effectively as possible, taking into account	SBM and admin team to source appropriate carbon net zero suppliers, where	All children access all aspects of the curriculum.	Ongoing	

the new building for a single form entry primary school.	appropriate and continue to ensure any maintenance contracts are committed to a reduction in carbon emissions through NEPO/procurement processes, when required.			
Continue to meet carbon zero as we approach the new builds for both St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley	Regular meetings between DfE, Turner and Townsend and Trust estates to ensure that new sites meet carbon net zero, and the biodiversity net gain is as big as possible, at the new site.	A new building for both schools on a new site.	Termly	
Ensure the curriculum can be accessed by all children, including those with additional needs and that technology usage is efficient and effective, modern and up-to-date, minimising power sources.	Reduce carbon emission through the reduction of paperwork by using electronic folders. Ensure there is a regular programmed technology cycle.	Planned programme of IT refurbishment taking into account Wi-Fi calling systems, reduction in paper usage, and increased technology use, where appropriate.	Ongoing	
To ensure that appropriate utility suppliers are found to supply both schools and that the schools minimise any potential costs by developing strategies for turning off lights/sharing resources where able.	Procurement via Trust	Reduction in costs.	Ongoing	
To reduce overall costs and carbon emissions through the 'joining-up/pairing' of class educational visits, ensuring carbon emissions are minimised.	To 'join-up/pair-up' class educational visits, ensuring carbon emissions are minimised, either within our schools, or across other schools in the MAT.	Carbon emissions at all levels will be reduced, alongside costs.	Ongoing	
Action area 4: Operations and supply chains				
To ensure that supply chains minimise carbon emissions through net zero commitments and economies of scale, where able via the multi-academy trust.	SBM and admin team to source appropriate carbon net zero suppliers, where appropriate and continue to ensure any maintenance contracts are committed to a reduction in carbon emissions through NEPO/procurement processes, when required.	All children access all aspects of the curriculum.	Ongoing	
To reduce wastage in stationery supply and procurement orders by minimising expenditure and usage of physical resources including paper (termly ordering as opposed to annual).	Regular meetings between SLT/admin/finance link governors.	Staff at all levels will make conscious choices about the wastage of resources.	Termly	
To reduce overall carbon emissions of bus bookings by working with wider MAT cluster schools and organise bus bookings centrally.	Depending on the event, create key organisers, responsible for bus bookings.	To reduce carbon emissions as well as overall costs.	Ongoing	
To reduce potential carbon emissions, alongside the cost of travel to conferences/meetings by holding as many meetings online as is reasonably possible.	To hold as meetings, online instead of in person, as is reasonably practical and possible.	To reduce carbon emissions as well as overall costs	Ongoing	

Monitoring and Review.

This policy will be reviewed by the LGC in September 2027