



Climate Policy

Chester-le-Street CE
Primary School
2023-24



Environmental / Climate Policy

Chester-le-Street Primary School is a Primary school which services the community of Chester-le-Street. At Chester-le-Street Primary, we are striving to become a Climate Friendly School and limit the impact that we have upon the climate and the planet. We acknowledge that our operations have an effect on the environment and have identified the key activities that we believe contribute to our climate footprint:

- Buildings – the Faith building is currently being improved to include additional roof insulation, LED lighting and new energy efficient boiler. The Hope building have lighting, windows, heating and roof insulation that do not significantly reduce the school carbon footprint. The heating system is kept well maintained and dust free to reduce carbon emissions.
- Energy – a new heating system has been installed in Faith building but the heating in Hope building does not currently reduce the school carbon footprint. The school has not been actively monitoring energy use for lighting and ICT through the school day but the school does monitor energy use through heat via Energy Manager Live. There is an daily ICT automatic shut down at 6pm.
- Food - school meals are managed so as to reduce food waste and thereby limit carbon emissions from school meals. There is a weekly booking system for school meals to reduce food waste and vegetarian options are provided too. Food waste from the KS1 morning snacks are collected and fed to the school guinea pigs and chickens.
- Grounds – The grounds have good tree cover to reduce carbon emissions and children have time to connect to nature in break times and lessons.
- Water – school has toilets with low flush options and water hippos and water butts for collecting water for gardening. Water use is monitored through the water meter and pipes are routinely checked for leaks.
- Transport emissions - recent travel survey identified a need to take action to reduce travel to school by cars among pupils. There is cycle storage on site and pupils take part in bikeability training. School works with local traffic wardens to reduce traffic congestion around school entrance.
- Consumption – purchasing approach involves avoidance of single use plastic and seeking to reuse and repair where possible. Paper recycling bins are provided in every classroom and the school has clothes, batteries and small electricals recycling facilities provided.

Chester-le-Street Primary School is a school which services the community of Chester-Le-Street. Christian values are at the heart of the life and work within the school and our school commitment to protecting the environment flows from this. We acknowledge that our operations influence the environment and have identified the key activities that we believe contribute to our climate footprint.

As a school, climate change and sustainability are of high importance amongst the staff and the students. We have an active and enthusiastic eco-group in school. We understand the importance of educating children now about the issues surrounding climate change and recognise we are educating the future generation of the planet. We want to expand our focus on climate sustainability by committing to look across the different areas of school operations to take action to reduce carbon emissions from our school activity.

The Climate Friendly Action Team have chosen the following key areas to focus on to reduce school carbon emissions: Buildings, Energy, Food, Grounds, Transport and Consumption. These actions are





summarized in the school Climate Action Plan which will be updated yearly with the aim of completing a rolling programme of activity across key areas to reduce climate impact. The action plan aims to achieve 10 new climate friendly actions each year. These will be identified and reviewed by the school Climate Friendly Action Team. The action team is made up of school staff, governors and pupils to ensure whole school participation in the activity.

Our Climate commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below: Compliance with all applicable standards, laws, requirements, regulations and public / customer expectations.

- Implement an energy policy
- Commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2023
- Monitoring our key resource usage and implementing conservation techniques to achieve our targets.
- Creating and publishing an Annual Climate Action Report that describes the activities that we are completing.

We will continue to improve our environmental management system by working to the Investors in the Environment (iE) criteria, considering any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all our employees ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

Sean Mulligan is our Sustainability Champion and has designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy.

Our Climate Friendly Action Team who has responsibility for the creation of the annual Climate Friendly Action Plan and the implementation of at least 10 action each year.

Chester-le-Street Primary will make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public, including making a copy available on the Chester-le-Street CE