



NEWMAN CATHOLIC TRUST



HEART SPEAKS TO HEART

Environmental & Sustainability Policy 2024-25

Review

Review Cycle	Date of Policy	Reviewed by	Review Date
Annual	2024-25	FBM	December 2025

Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date:
Chair of Board	Chris Izuka		December 2024
CEO	Dr Daniel Doyle		December 2024

Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

"Rooted in faith, we ignite a love of learning, foster inclusive education and empower every individual to achieve their utmost potential."

At the Newman Catholic Trust, we stand united in our unwavering mission to nurture a transformative educational experience, where every child is seen, valued, and cherished as a unique gift from God. Rooted in faith, we ignite a love for learning that awakens curiosity, sparks imagination, and fuels a lifelong journey of discovery.

Guided by the teachings of Christ and inspired by the profound wisdom of our namesake, Saint John Henry Newman, we strive to foster a community where inclusion is lived, diversity is embraced, and every individual is empowered to fulfil their highest potential. As Newman said, *"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."* We believe that education is a sacred journey of continual transformation—intellectually, spiritually, and personally. We believe that true education is not just about knowledge, but about shaping hearts and minds, cultivating resilience, and nurturing the whole person.

Our vision is simple yet profound: to be a beacon of hope and excellence, where students are not only academically accomplished but spiritually enriched and personally empowered to make a difference in the world. In all that we do, we strive to embody our core values:

- **Christ/Child Centred:** Placing the Gospel values, the teachings of Christ and the well-being of each child at the heart of every action we take.
- **Inclusive and Consultative:** Ensuring open communication and engagement with all members of our community.
- **Caring:** Showing empathy, understanding, and support in navigating any challenges that may arise.
- **Transparent:** Fostering openness and honesty in all our interactions.
- **Strategic:** Approaching all matters with careful planning and consideration for the wider community.
- **Professional:** Maintaining the highest standards of conduct and integrity in our decision-making.
- **Accountable:** Taking responsibility for our actions and fulfilling our commitment to ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Statement of Intent

At the Newman Catholic Trust, we are committed to environmental stewardship rooted in the Catholic principle of caring for God's creation. Guided by Pope Francis' Laudato Si', we recognise our moral and social responsibility to address the environmental challenges of our time. Our schools aim to educate pupils about sustainability and climate change through practical experiences, embedding a sense of responsibility for their local surroundings and the global environment.

By implementing this policy, we will:

- Promote sustainable living practices within our school communities.*
- Minimise our carbon footprint and environmental impact.*
- Prepare our pupils to be active global citizens who can tackle the challenges of a changing climate.*

1. Legal Framework

This policy aligns with the following legislation and guidance:

- Climate Change Act 2008*
- Environmental Protection Act 1990*
- The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015*
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended)*
- DfE (2022) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy*
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

It also operates in conjunction with school policies, such as:

- Healthy Eating Policy*
- Behaviour Policy*
- Travel Policy*
- Health and Safety Policy*
- Data Protection Policy*
- Records Management Policy*

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Trust Leadership

- Develop and maintain a unified Trust-wide strategy for sustainability.*
- Allocate resources for environmental initiatives across schools.*
- Monitor compliance with this policy and set measurable targets.*

CEO

- Ensure Trust schools have the tools, training, and resources to embed sustainability.*
- Promote partnerships with external organisations to enhance sustainability efforts.*

Principals

- Lead their schools in implementing this policy effectively.*
- Facilitate training and awareness sessions for staff and pupils on sustainable practices.*
- Monitor energy usage, waste management, and procurement for sustainability.*

Local Governing Committees (LGCs)

- Oversee schools' environmental performance.*

- *Assess the sustainability credentials of contractors and suppliers.*
- *Support funding applications for eco-projects, such as renewable energy or biodiversity initiatives.*

Staff

- *Incorporate sustainability into lessons and day-to-day practices.*
- *Encourage pupils to participate in environmental initiatives.*
- *Lead by example in conserving resources such as energy and water.*

Pupils

- *Actively participate in eco-initiatives, such as litter picks or recycling programmes.*
- *Apply sustainable practices at home and in their local communities.*

Parents and Guardians

- *Reinforce the importance of sustainability at home.*
- *Encourage walking, cycling, or carpooling to reduce transport emissions.*

3. Waste and Recycling

We commit to reducing waste by:

- *Minimising paper usage through digital communication and resource sharing.*
- *Setting up well-labelled recycling points for paper, plastics, glass, and food waste.*
- *Promoting reusable items, such as water bottles and lunch containers.*
- *Composting food waste for use in school gardens.*
- *Engaging pupils in waste audits and campaigns to reduce landfill waste.*

4. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

We will responsibly dispose of all electrical equipment by:

- *Partnering with recyclers or organisations that refurbish and donate devices.*
- *Ensuring data on disposed equipment is securely erased in line with data protection laws.*
- *Conducting regular audits to identify reusable or repairable items.*

5. Littering

Littering is unacceptable on school premises and in the surrounding community.

- *Schools will organise regular litter-picking events and promote anti-littering campaigns.*
- *All waste will be disposed of responsibly in appropriate bins located throughout school grounds.*
- *Pupils will learn about the harmful effects of litter on biodiversity in science and PSHE lessons.*

6. Transport

We will reduce transport emissions by:

- *Encouraging walking, cycling, and carpooling.*
- *Providing secure bike storage and road safety education.*
- *Exploring options for electric or hybrid school transport where applicable.*

7. School Grounds and Biodiversity

We will enhance school grounds to:

- *Promote biodiversity through planting native trees, wildflowers, and creating habitats such as bug hotels and ponds.*
- *Provide outdoor learning spaces that connect pupils with nature.*
- *Use eco-friendly materials for landscaping and outdoor furniture.*

8. Healthy Living and Wellbeing

- *Teach pupils about the connections between healthy lifestyles and sustainability.*
- *Encourage active outdoor activities that benefit both health and the environment.*
- *Promote sustainable food choices in school meals, including local and seasonal produce.*

9. Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

We commit to reducing energy use and emissions by:

- *Transitioning to renewable energy sources where possible.*
- *Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting and heating systems.*
- *Implementing energy-saving measures, such as motion-sensitive lighting and insulation.*
- *Displaying energy usage data in schools to encourage awareness.*

10. Curriculum Integration

Environmental sustainability will be embedded across the curriculum:

- **Catholic Social Teaching:** *Responsibility to care for God's creation.*
- **Science:** *Understanding climate change, biodiversity, and renewable energy.*
- **Geography:** *Exploring environmental challenges and sustainable solutions.*
- **PSHE:** *Discussing the impact of lifestyle choices on the environment.*

Cross-curricular projects, such as eco-gardens or climate action plans, will engage pupils in hands-on sustainability efforts.

11. Monitoring, Review, and Reporting

- *This policy will be reviewed annually by the CEO and the Trust Board, with input from staff and pupils.*