Vantage Climate Action Policy



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Delivering educational excellence, together.

Vantage CE Academies

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Introduction

Vantage CE Academies is committed to providing high-quality education rooted in Christian distinctiveness while preparing children and young people to flourish in a changing world. We recognise our responsibility to reduce our environmental impact, build climate resilience, and model sustainable behaviours for our pupils, staff, and communities.

This policy sets out our approach to sustainability in line with:

- The Trust's core values of **Aspiration, Togetherness, and Service**
- The DfE's *Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy* (2022)

Vision and Values

Our sustainability vision is to create a Trust where:

- Every school contributes to a healthier planet
- Every pupil develops the knowledge, skills, and values to act as responsible global citizens
- Every school community benefits from our sustainable practices.
- Climate action is embedded into all areas of our Trust's work.

This vision is grounded in our values:

Aspiration

We aim high for our pupils, staff, and communities by:

- Being ambitious in our climate action plans.
- Embedding climate education that inspires curiosity, innovation, and hope.
- Developing staff expertise in environmental learning and sustainable practice.

Togetherness

We act as one Trust, fostering belonging and equity by:

- Sharing resources, expertise, and best practice across our schools
- Ensuring all pupils—especially the least advantaged—benefit from sustainable environments
- Working collaboratively with families, churches, local authorities, and community partners

Service

We serve others with humility, love, and respect by:

- Caring for creation as an expression of Christian stewardship
- Prioritising actions that support vulnerable communities most affected by climate change
- Encouraging pupils to engage in social action and environmental service

Strategic Aims

Climate Education

- Embed high-quality climate and sustainability education across the curriculum
- Provide professional development so staff feel confident teaching environmental topics.
- Promote pupil leadership through eco-councils, social action projects, and community engagement.
- Pupils leave our settings with green skills,
- Use our Christian ethos to explore themes of stewardship, justice, and compassion in climate education.

Climate Resilience

- Work towards all schools having climate-resilient buildings and grounds
- Conduct regular risk assessments for extreme weather and environmental hazards
- Develop emergency and continuity plans that reflect climate-related risks
- Increase green spaces, biodiversity, and outdoor learning opportunities

Decarbonisation and Resource Efficiency

- Reduce carbon emissions across the Trust following national targets
- Improve energy efficiency through responsible procurement, monitoring, and maintenance
- Reduce waste and increase recycling, re-use, and sustainable purchasing
- Promote sustainable travel options for staff and pupils

Sustainable Leadership and Governance

- Embed sustainability into Trust-wide strategic planning and decision-making
- Appoint sustainability leads at Trust and school levels to drive change
- Review progress toward climate action annually
- Ensure financial decisions consider long-term environmental impact

Implementation

Climate actions plans will be held at Trust level and School level. Actions plans will be monitored and updated regularly using the premises management system climate tracker. Actions taken will be documented, celebrated and shared dynamically.

Every school will have a sustainability lead who is responsible for driving climate action in their area, keep knowledge up to date and networking to share climate best practice.

Climate action will be embedded to form part of everyday school life. Implementation will be everyone's responsibility daily.

- **Trust Board**: Provides strategic oversight and ensures compliance with DfE guidance
- **Executive Leadership Team**: Embeds sustainability across finance decisions, operations, curriculum delivery, and estates decisions, monitoring trust wide progress.
- **Local Advisory Boards**: Provides governance at school level and ensures local actions are being delivered impactfully.
- **School Leaders**: Implement school-level action plans, engage local communities and monitor school-level progress.
- **Sustainability Leads**: Drive change and seek opportunities to embed climate action across their school, collaborate and share knowledge and expertise.
- **All Staff**: Model sustainable behaviours and integrate climate education into teaching.
- **Pupils**: Participate in environmental initiatives and act as ambassadors for change.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Progress against action plans reported in LAB reports and published to wider community.
- Annual audits of Trust wide energy use, waste, and carbon footprint evidencing reduction in climate impact and reductions in energy use.
- Improvement in display energy certificate ratings for school buildings.
- Audit curriculum implementation and pupil climate knowledge.
- Impact of actions through qualitive measures e.g. eco committee activity and uptake.
- Visible threads of climate considerations seen through documented procurement processes and supplier choices.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in response to legislative or regulatory changes.