

# Sustainability

Academic Year 2023-2027



## Sustainability

At Connect Education Trust, we are fully committed to a more sustainable future and leaving the world in a better place for future generations. We are dedicated to protecting our planet and recognise that sustainability has to be a vital part of the Trust's strategic plan and operations.

Our aim is to make sure that all pupils live and learn in a sustainable way. We have the responsibility and opportunity to make a difference in looking after our planet. Our collective choices and decisions can make a significant impact, as we prepare our children to create remarkable futures. Our aim is to deliver a viable approach to sustainability in our schools.

Connect has adopted the Bioregional "OnePlanet Living" principles as a framework to guide our thinking on sustainability. Together the 10 elements comprise a holistic approach to sustainability.

Connect is taking direct action at trust level as well as supporting our schools to develop their activities. For example, we are taking steps to measure, monitor and reduce our energy and water consumption. We are reporting on our energy usage and what we are doing to reduce this for the first time in our 2022/23 annual report, to be published in early 2024.

In 2023 we were proud to host our first Pupil Parliament Network meeting on sustainability. It is made up of 2 pupil representatives from each school across Connect Education Trust. The Parliament will meet once a term.

Our vision for our schools are:

<b>Culture</b> The ways things are done.  Changing attitudes and creating a behaviour change attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To implement the Bioregional 'One Planet Living principles' throughout the Trust</li><li>• To seek opportunities to share and learn from one another</li><li>• Hold Sustainable Schools competition</li></ul>
<b>School Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To promote good practice to our pupils and people around water and energy usage.</li><li>• Reducing waste through recycling programmes and responsible procurement practices.</li><li>• To encourage the growth of plants and trees in the school grounds</li><li>• To have sustainability action plans in all our schools</li></ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up a Sustainability Community across all our schools, with sustainability champions taking the lead on encouraging staff and pupils to be more sustainable</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To use IT wherever possible to reduce paper usage.</li> <li>• Encourage staff to participate in the cycle to work scheme</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum</b> Teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating eco-friendly practices into our curriculum to educate and inspire our pupils.</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for pupils to engage in real world sustainability projects.</li> <li>• Forest schools (where possible) for the children to learn about nature and the environment</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering professional development opportunities to empower our staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate sustainability into their teaching and daily practices.</li> </ul>

Together, we will work towards creating a learning environment that not only prepares pupils for remarkable futures but also equips them with the awareness and skills needed to address the challenges of a rapidly changing world. By embracing sustainability, Connect Education Trust strives to leave a lasting positive impact on the planet and inspire future generations to do the same.

Connect Education Trust invites all members of our community to join us on this journey towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

