

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

HOW ARE WE CONTRIBUTING BACK TO OUR
WORLD?

TRUST NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 1 2025



Wilfred Owen
Primary School



Market Drayton
Junior School



Greenacres
Primary School



St Mary's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Woodfield
Infant School



St George's
Junior School



Shropshire
Primary Partnership



Market Drayton
Infant & Nursery School

Collaboration • Aspiration • Respect • Progress



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School





Carla Whelan
CEO

🌱 Why Sustainability in Education Matters 🌱

In today's rapidly changing world, the importance of sustainability in education cannot be overstated. As we strive to create a more sustainable future, our schools and educational institutions play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

Schools are in a unique position to lead by example. By implementing eco-friendly practices such as recycling programs, energy-efficient buildings, and creating green spaces, schools can significantly reduce their environmental footprint.

These initiatives not only help the environment but also teach students the value of sustainable living.

By teaching students about the importance of sustainability, we equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed, sustainable choices throughout their lives. This includes understanding the impact of their actions on the environment and learning how to contribute positively to their communities.

As the world faces increasing environmental challenges, the demand for professionals with expertise in sustainability is growing. By incorporating sustainability into education, we prepare students for future careers in green industries and equip them with the skills needed to address global environmental issues. This not only benefits the students but also contributes to the development of a sustainable economy.

Education is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about shaping values and attitudes. By having a high profile on sustainability, we instill a sense of responsibility in pupils towards the environment and their communities. This sense of responsibility can inspire them to take action, whether it's through community projects, advocacy, or simply making more sustainable choices in their daily lives.

Let's work together to make sustainability a core part of our educational systems and inspire the change we wish to see in the world.



Connect with us to explore how our offer can support your vision and goals.

- [EduShare](#)
- [Associate Membership](#)
- [Coaching](#)
- [Training/CPD](#)
- [ITT](#)
- [Conferences/stalls](#)

empowermat.co.uk

[@Carla Whelan](#)

[@EmpowerMAT](#)

HOW ARE WE CONTRIBUTING BACK TO OUR WORLD?



Sam Scott
Director of Education

In a rapidly changing world, I am trying to embrace the use of digital technology and am actively contributing as part of the digital strategy and transformation group. We must equip our children for a future that will evolve swiftly. AI is here to stay, and we need to utilise it responsibly. I am looking forward to a visit to Google HQ to explore how we can harness technology to enhance the learning experiences of all children. I was privileged to collaborate with the Foundation of Educational Development (FED) on a proposal for developing inclusive education.

This is a cause we must continue to advocate for with our government to ensure true equity for all, regardless of SEND, poverty or background. It is imperative that our schools receive full funding to support these efforts

On a personal note, I love being outdoors and enjoy my regular morning walks around the lake. We feed the ducks, geese, moorhens and coots daily and I also try to do regular litter picks, giving a little back to our environment. This year, we are delighted to see the offspring thriving and it brings me joy that one of the ducks has managed to keep 12 ducklings for four weeks now. Fingers crossed she continues to do well.



Rachel Butterfield
Trust SENCo

As SENDCos, we support the wider school community by building strong relationships with parents and carers, many of whom face significant challenges themselves. We offer guidance, empathy, and practical support, creating a bridge between home and school that strengthens trust and collaboration.

By championing our most vulnerable pupils and promoting equity in education, we contribute to building a more compassionate, resilient society—one where every child has the chance to flourish, regardless of their starting point.

Our work helps shape not only the lives of individual children but also the fabric of the community we serve.



Michelle Harrington
Director of People
& Culture

To better understand and improve my environmental impact, I use tools like Giki Zero, which help me reduce my carbon footprint, track my lifestyle choices and receive tailored recommendations. This has encouraged me to adopt more sustainable habits such as choosing plant-based meals, avoiding fast fashion, using public transport, and being mindful of my digital footprint, including the environmental cost of unnecessary emails. These small, practical actions help me contribute meaningfully to climate goals. I believe that when individuals are empowered to make small, manageable changes,

I the collective impact can be transformative. By promoting carbon literacy, encouraging second-hand uniform sales, and supporting community awareness events, as a Trust, we can aim to foster a circular economy mindset and engage families and colleagues in sustainability efforts. These actions reflect my belief that sustainability must be both a shared and personal journey. Through consistent, conscious choices, I strive to lead by example and contribute to a greener, more resilient future.

HOW ARE WE CONTRIBUTING BACK TO OUR WORLD?



Lucy Copson
Trust Administrator

In my role, I contribute to sustainability at work by prioritising digital communication over printed materials, supporting paperless systems. I also help with our green practices within the office environment. These efforts help create a more sustainable workplace and set a positive example for colleagues.



Jess Shore
Trust Business
Administration Apprentice

I think kindness is one of the best ways to give back, whether it's helping a colleague, supporting someone who's having a tough day, or just being thoughtful in small ways. I try to carry that same mindset into how I treat the environment. I try to do small things that make a difference, like turning off my monitor and unplugging my laptop charger at the end of the day. I also like to share posts on our Empower Trust social media about things like Earth Day and sustainability to help spread awareness. I'm always trying to learn more about how we can all do better for the environment.



Leon Johnston
Trust Facilities &
Estates Apprentice

I am cycling to work as much as possible to reduce the amount of fuel I use, reducing carbon footprint in a way.

Also look into energy efficiency methods and strategies as an estates team to improve our efficiency's by ensuring all services are up to date, site managers/staff ensure lights and plugs are only on when required, windows are closed when the heating/ air con is on. Also looking at how we can introduce automatic lighting, waterless urinals and modernising our lighting to LEDs.

#authenticallyours
#togetherwehavegotthis
#buildingbrilliance



St Mary's

CE Primary & Nursery School

Where Every Day Matters & Everyone Counts

I am proud to share our commitment to teaching children about looking after our world and contributing to sustainability.

We are currently developing a climate action plan to address the environmental challenges of climate change within our curriculum and school building. We are fortunate to have a head start with our school building as St Mary's has solar panels which allows us to harvest the sun's energy.

At St Mary's we encourage impactful, hands-on learning which engages our children to have an understanding of key environmental issues such as the impact of coastal erosion in UKS2, recycling in LKS2, water harvesting in KS1 and composting in EY.

The Student Council and our ECO enrichment group are St Mary's pioneers in changing the mindset of their peers to make a tangible impact on our world. Most recently, they have been litter picking in the community and have joined forces with the British Ironworks to protect wildlife and ecosystems by removing plastic litter and promoting green practices.

The Ocean Trawler Challenge!

We're thrilled to announce that St. Mary's Primary School is taking part in The Ocean Trawler Challenge; an exciting and educational initiative aimed at raising awareness about marine conservation and the impact of ocean pollution. As part of the challenge, our students are diving into interactive learning experiences that explore the importance of protecting our seas and marine life. It's a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to become passionate ocean ambassadors and make waves of change for a healthier planet!



Growing Our Own Vegetables!

In year 1 we are getting our hands dirty and learning where our food comes from by growing our very own vegetables! This hands-on experience is teaching our children about healthy eating and sustainability. From seed to harvest, our young gardeners are seeing the rewards of their hard work — and soon, they'll even get to taste the fruits (and veggies!) of their labour!



EMPOWERING EDUCATION



St Mary's

CE Primary & Nursery School

Where Every Day Matters & Everyone Counts

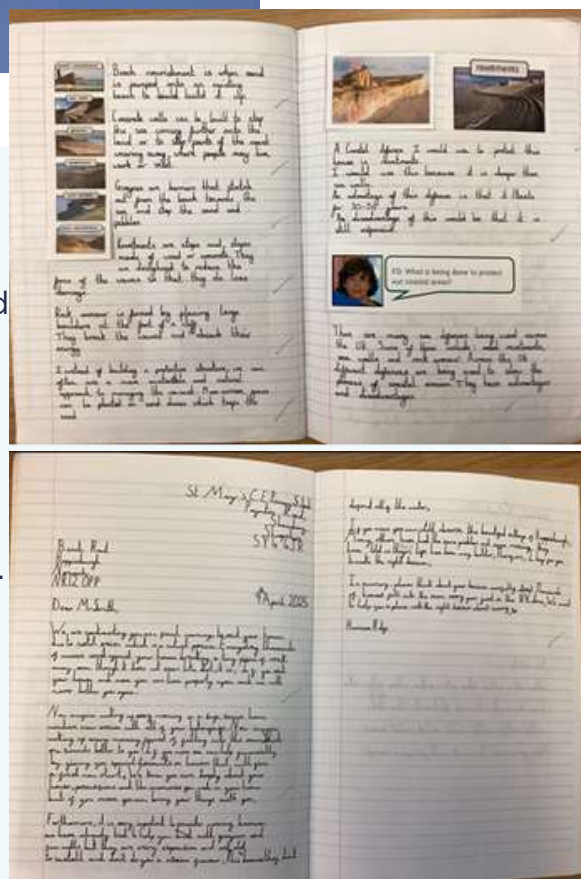
🌱 St Mary's Primary School Goes for the Eco Green Flag! 🌱

We're excited to share that St Mary's Primary School is proudly working towards achieving the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award! This initiative is part of our commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and empowering our students to become future eco-leaders. Through a series of green projects — from recycling and energy-saving campaigns to biodiversity and clean-up efforts — our pupils are taking active roles in making a positive impact on the planet. We're incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and teamwork, and we can't wait to see the difference they'll make as we journey toward earning our Green Flag!



Year 5 Take Action on Coastal Erosion

This term, Year 5 have been learning all about coastal erosion and the powerful forces that shape our coastline. As part of their geography topic, the children explored how waves, wind, and weather can wear away cliffs over time. They were especially concerned about people living close to the edge of eroding cliffs. To put their learning into action, the class wrote thoughtful letters to a fictional resident, Mr. Smith, kindly asking him to consider moving to a safer location. The children showed great empathy and understanding, using facts they had learned to explain the dangers and encourage a positive change. Well done, Year 5!





**St George's
Junior School**

Excellence & Enjoyment Are Achievable

Why is Sustainability important?

This is an area of interest for me. Over 20 years ago, I completed my thesis in sustainable development within education. Personally and professionally I question why we don't do more to educate our young people about the need to protect our world now and in the future.

I recently walked along the beach in Cyprus and came across a turtle nest with a sign stating to be careful and keep away. It saddened me to see that around the area, it was littered with discarded fishing nets and numerous plastic bottles.



It struck me...this is one beach destroyed by humans. One beach, which is sadly a number contributing to many more across the world.

How can we make changes?

At Empower trust, we drive this through our curriculum and hope to build upon this with future strength.

Developing responsible citizens- we want to prepare children to become responsible citizens. Learning about sustainability encourages pupils to take responsibility for their actions, develop empathy for others, and consider the long-term consequences of their choices.

Empowering action and positive change – our schools empower our pupils to take action

Preparing for a green economy – we want our pupils to be successful in the future job market that will demand skills related to environmental awareness, sustainability, and green technologies. Our young people are our future so education needs to give them the knowledge and skills they need.

Promoting equity and Global Citizenship – it is vital we help our children understand the diverse challenges faced by people around the world and promote values of fairness and cooperation

Embedding sustainability in primary education equips children with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to face global environmental challenges and contribute to a more sustainable future. Through Science, Geography and other curricula area, it supports academic learning, character development, and the cultivation of lifelong responsible behaviours.



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Some of our quick wins are:

- "I help by picking up litter at the park."
- "I share my toys with my friends."
- "I turn off the lights when I leave the room."
- "I planted a flower in our garden."
- "I say nice things to people when they're sad."

Walk to School Week

We are taking part in this year's campaign "The Great Space Walk. We will consider the impact of reducing our carbon footprint as well as healthy lifestyles.

Contributions can be:

Environmental: Planting trees or reducing waste.

Social: Helping others, volunteering, promoting kindness and inclusion.

Educational: Sharing knowledge, mentoring.

Creative: Making art or music.

Innovative: Creating technology that improve lives or protect the planet.

How are we contributing back to our world?

This question invites reflection on how we as individuals, as communities, and humanity as a whole give back to the Earth and society.

Picture News In our Picture News assembly, we learnt about the Thermavault fridge invented by 3 teenagers in India. The fridge is salt-powered so that it can be used in hospitals located in rural areas- the invention received an Earth Prize. It has inspired us to think of our own inventions that could change the world!



Values

We believe our answers to this show that even small actions matter and we try to see the world through a lens of care and fairness.

Celebrations



Planting trees in our local area as memorials for special occasions.

HSBC financial workshops

To enable our children to give back to the world, Ollie from HSBC delivered a range of workshops to Nursery through to Y6 so that our pupils have a better understanding of money from an early age.

Community Projects

Helping the local council to make decisions for our community such as the one below.



Wern Town Council
25 March

The new play equipment at the recreation ground is now installed and ready to enjoy! This fantastic addition was chosen by students from St. Peter's Primary School, ensuring it's fun, challenging, and perfect for local children.

With climbing frames, balancing challenges, and plenty of space for active play, it's a brilliant way to encourage outdoor fun and adventure! 🌱

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this happen - we can't wait to see children enjoying it for years to come! 🌟

Published Poets

34 of our children had their poems published in the book 'Wonderverse'. This book will be around for future generations too.



COMIC RELIEF



Supporting charities allows us to contribute back to our world.

Our Reflection Often, the best ideas come from thinking differently. It doesn't matter how old you are, your ideas can make the world a better place.



The way we are contributing back to our world at our school, is that we are proud to be making meaningful contributions toward protecting our environment and promoting sustainability. Here are some of the ways we are working together to make a positive impact:

- **Eco-Friendly Supplies:** We use eco glue sticks in our classrooms, helping to reduce plastic waste.
- **Global Ocean Trawler Packet Challenge:** We are taking part in this exciting initiative in collaboration with the British Ironworks Centre. It raises awareness about ocean pollution and supports global efforts to reduce plastic waste in our seas.
- **Composting:** To minimize food waste going to landfill, we have compost bins in place. This not only reduces waste but also enriches the soil for future use.
- **Eco Representatives:** Each class has an appointed Eco Representative who helps lead and inspire sustainable practices.
- **Walk to School Week:** Next week, we will be participating in Walk to School Week, encouraging families to leave the car at home. This will help reduce air pollution and promote healthier lifestyles.
- **Recycling Initiatives:** We have separate recycling bins available at lunchtime for recyclable materials, and classrooms are equipped with paper recycling bins to encourage mindful disposal of waste.

Together, we are making our world a better place.



ECO team

ECO news

Introducing our new Eco Team! These Year 1 & 2 pupils have an important mission: to bring eco-friendly habits back to their classes and inspire their peers to get involved in exciting eco projects, making our community a more sustainable place.

Saving energy can have a big impact, even through small, everyday actions! This spring term, Get Set for Positive Energy aims to inspire our school community to participate by taking the Everyday Energy pledge, and committing to daily energy-saving habits.

We're inviting pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to join the Everyday Energy Competition. You are being challenged to create a banner design to motivate others in the community to adopt Everyday Energy swaps. The winning design will receive a massive £5000 prize to help make the school more sustainable in the future.

Entry sheets will be distributed to pupils by the end of this week. If you'd like to make a difference and take part, please submit your banner designs to the school office by 7th April. What matters most to you? How would you inspire others to take action?

Design a banner to inspire daily energy-saving changes!

Win up to £5,000!

Positive Energy

ABOUT THE GLOBAL OCEAN TRAWLER CHALLENGE PACKAGE

We are ready to participate in this highly anticipated Global Ocean Trawler Challenge! To start us off we will be receiving kit which includes everything we need to get started, including:

- Two 1m x 5m nets with cable ties
- Information guide on how to connect the netting
- Participation stickers for 6 classes of students
- Free entry vouchers to the British Ironworks Centre for 6 classes of students
- Classroom infographic on landfill and recycling
- Classroom infographic on waste in the ocean
- Classroom infographic on balance of food
- Ocean activity sheet for young students
- Inspiration board of artistic crisp packet creations
- Certificate and invitation for the most eco-friendly student to receive a Global Award from the British Ironworks Centre

GLOBAL OCEAN TRAWLER PACKET CHALLENGE



ECO news

Glue sticks are notoriously difficult to recycle due to glue residue and their construction from multiple plastic types. However, our new U-fill glue stick system offers a revolutionary solution. Instead of discarding empty glue sticks, we simply retain the durable barrels and send them back to the supplier to refill. This process can be repeated countless times, making U-fill the world's only eco-friendly glue stick solution.

How does U-fill benefit the environment?

By adopting the U-fill system, we can significantly reduce the number of glue sticks sent to landfill. Astonishingly, a single UK school discards up to 2000 glue sticks into landfill each year. Switching to U-fill prevents this waste, supporting sustainability.

ECO FRIENDLY

THE WORLD'S ONLY REUSABLE GLUE STICKS

ECO REFILL SYSTEM

Bamboo is one of the most sustainable materials in the planet. When harvested, bamboo regenerates to full maturity in just 5-8 years and can be reused repeatedly. Remarkably, bamboo absorbs up to four times more carbon dioxide and releases 35% more oxygen into the atmosphere compared to other plants. By supporting managed bamboo forests, we contribute to combating climate change while allowing these forests to thrive.

We're proud to introduce new cleaning cloths made from 100% sustainable bamboo fibres. These cloths are eco-friendly and effective for cleaning whiteboards while offering natural antibacterial properties to maintain hygiene. Reusable and fully biodegradable, they are an environmentally responsible alternative to traditional cleaning cloths, reinforcing our school's commitment to sustainability.

We're also saying goodbye to disposable whiteboard pens! Our new and innovative Whiteboard Markers are biodegradable and water-soluble, leaving a minimal environmental footprint. Unlike traditional plastic pens, which end up in landfills, these markers break down into shavings, promoting sustainable practices. Additionally, their triangular grip encourages an ergonomic tripod grasp, fostering comfort and proper hand positioning for users.



At Market Drayton Junior School, our dedicated Eco Warriors have been working hard to support the school's commitment to tackling climate change, promoting equity, and building a more sustainable future for all.

At Market Drayton Junior School, our dedicated Eco Warriors have been working hard to support the school's commitment to tackling climate change, promoting equity, and building a more sustainable future for all.

In collaboration with NEXUS, we have introduced eco-friendly, sustainable stationery across the school. The children learned first hand about the environmental impact of their choices during an informative session led by a NEXUS representative.

As part of our focus on resilience and healthy lifestyles, pupils have taken part in WOW – the Walk to School Challenge. This pupil-led initiative encourages children to self-report how they get to school each day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle, scoot, or 'park and stride') at least four times a week for a month, they are rewarded with a badge. This promotes active travel and helps reduce our carbon footprint.

To encourage responsible waste disposal and recycling, we've introduced five different types of bins for various kinds of rubbish in the playground and throughout the school, which are now monitored daily by the Eco Warriors on a rota. These initiatives are helping our students understand global challenges and empowering them to be active participants in shaping a greener future.





Tricia Slater
Chief Operating Officer

NET ZERO BY 2050

On 22nd May, EmpowerMAT brought together all support staff for a special Collaboration Day at AICO in Oswestry, focused on sustainability and climate action. The day was a fantastic opportunity to explore how every role across the Trust can contribute to our shared goal of becoming Net Zero by 2050. AICO shared their inspiring sustainability journey and the impactful work they do within their local community. Ben from Nexus also joined us to showcase all of their sustainable and reusable resources.

This event is just one part of EmpowerMat's wider commitment to environmental responsibility. In line with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (2022–2030), the Trust has launched a four-phase plan to drive meaningful change. This includes assessing current practices, monitoring progress, implementing Climate Action Plans by September 2025, and expanding efforts through collaboration from 2026 onwards.

We're already making strides, using carbon-neutral platforms like Microsoft Azure, improving energy efficiency in our buildings, and encouraging sustainable habits such as recycling, composting, and reducing single-use plastics. To support schools, we're also launching a SharePoint hub with resources, hosting a sustainability leads workshop on 18th June 2025, and forming a Trust-wide Climate Action Working Group.

Together, we're building a more sustainable future—one step at a time.





Shropshire
Primary Partnership
Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

TRAIN TO TEACH

Take the first step towards a rewarding career in education with our expert-led, school-based teacher training programme.

Train to teach in one of our welcoming partner schools, located across North and South Shropshire, including Shrewsbury, Wem, Shawbury, Market Drayton.

Do you know someone ready to start their career in teaching?

Learn by Doing

From **day one**, trainees are immersed in the classroom, spending at least two days a week gaining hands-on experience alongside experienced educators.

Diverse Teaching Placements

Experience **multiple** key stages, graduate with a broad, adaptable skill set and the confidence to **thrive** in any primary classroom.

Qualifications

Achieve **Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)** in just 12 months

Become the teacher that inspires young minds.

Train to Teach with Shropshire Primary Partnership – starting September 2025!

Are you ready to apply:

Entry Criteria

Qualifications

- Undergraduate bachelors degree of 2:2 or above, or equivalent.
- GCSE grade 4/C or above in English, Maths and Science, or the equivalent

Information Sessions

- Book a 1-1 information session, for the answers to all your teacher training questions

[Book here](#)

Application

- Submit an application via DfE portal to start teacher training in September 2025

[Apply Here](#)

Email: admin@spp.empowermat.co.uk
www.shropshireprimarypartnership.co.uk

**Book
now!**

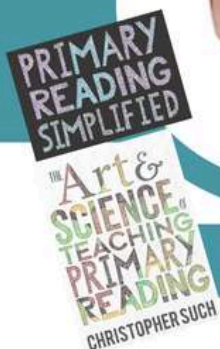
Email:
admin@empowermat.co.uk



3RD NOVEMBER 2025
8:30am - 3:30pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
EmpowerMAT:
PROVIDING FOR ALL CONFERENCE

JOIN US FOR A MOTIVATIONAL DAY, THAT WILL INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE



AUTHOR
CHRIS SUCH



**BRITAIN'S GOT
TALENT**
DAVE MCPARTLIN



EduPulse
ADAM KOHLBECK

VENUE-SHREWSBURY TOWN FC

PRICE -£65

TO BOOK-admin@empowermat.co.uk

WWW.EMPOWERMAT.CO.UK

#authenticallyours
#togetherwehavegotthis
#buildingbrilliance



Empower

Multi-Academy Trust

Inspire • Empower • Achieve



#authenticallyours

#buildingbrilliance

#togetherwehavegotthis