

United Learning Energy Policy

Turn it down, turn it off, shut it down.

Energy usage within schools accounts for more than 30% of United Learning's carbon footprint. With the ongoing climate and energy crisis it is now more important than ever to stamp out unnecessary energy usage. Cutting this out will help us reduce our carbon footprint, and help you save potentially thousands of pounds on your energy bill. This document provides clear direction on what United Learning schools MUST do from 23/24 onwards.

- Temperature settings in schools must be no more than the following:
 - 19 degrees in classrooms, dining areas and staff rooms.
 - 15-18 degrees in multi-purpose halls.
 - 15 degrees in sports halls, gyms, toilets, and sports halls.
 - 21 degrees in medical rooms.
- Your heating schedules must be accurate and appropriate for each building and the time of year.
 - Ensure it is turned off when the building is unoccupied (out of hours, weekends, and holidays)
 - Ensure heating turns off at least 1 hour before the school closes (the earlier the better).
 - Ensure heating comes on no earlier than 1 hour before the school opens.
- Windows and external doors must remain closed whilst the heating is on. If a room gets too hot whilst the heating is on, adjust the radiator or heat emitter valve to reduce the amount of heat it emits.
- Lighting must be turned off when it is not needed. This includes when a space or room is empty, at the end of the day or when there is adequate daylight.
- IT equipment must be shut down when it is not in use. This includes interactive teaching equipment, computers, laptops, and TVs.
- All IT equipment must have a sleep setting active. This will ensure that if a piece of equipment is not used for a short time, it will power down.
- All electrical equipment must be turned off at the end of the day. This includes printers, scanners, supplementary heating, and all other electrical items (including IT).
- Catering appliances and equipment need to be turned off between mealtimes where possible.

“The cheapest and greenest kilowatt is the one you never use.”

Implementing the above will help reduce our carbon footprint and save you money. The above list is not exhaustive and there will be multiple more actions you can take to reduce energy consumption. Think “Turn it down, turn it off, shut it down”. If you have any questions on the above or anything else, please contact:

energy@unitedlearning.org.uk



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The best in everyone™

■ Ambition ■ Confidence ■ Creativity ■ Respect ■ Enthusiasm ■ Determination

Further Guidance on Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing energy consumption is no easy task, especially for a school. It can take considerable time and resources to make changes and the schools at United Learning range vastly in this capacity. The key thing to consider is whether you are doing everything possible to make changes. Saving energy will save carbon emissions, which will protect pupils' futures, and saving energy also saves money meaning more can be spent on staff and pupils. Below is a further list of actions your school can take to reduce energy consumption.

- Ensure maintenance staff are regularly checking the heating system to see that it is operating efficiently and effectively. This may include inspecting boilers, heat emitters, and furnaces, cleaning, and flushing pipelines, and repairing or replacing malfunctioning equipment. A thorough inspection is required in the autumn when the heating system comes on again after being turned off throughout the summer.
- Hot water should not need to be heated to more than 60 - 65 degrees. If you have a continuous flow system, you can set the hot water boiler to 60 - 65 degrees. If your system uses a storage tank, make sure that the tank is set to 60 – 65 degrees. Before adjusting make sure you adhere to health and safety standards.
- Ensure students and staff access classrooms through corridors rather than through external doors to ensure heat is not lost directly to the outside.
- Ensure furniture does not obstruct radiators or other heat emitters as this reduces their effectiveness to warm up a room.
- Regularly clean windows and skylights, and keep curtains and blinds open to ensure the school is making the most of natural daylight which reduces the need for lighting.
- Where possible, implement lighting controls, including occupancy sensors, daylight sensors, and other types of controls to ensure lighting is not on unnecessarily.
- Replace fluorescent and other lighting with LEDs. This can be done gradually throughout the school when old lights break.
- Place stickers on switches across the school to make it clear to staff and students which electrical appliances and lighting can be turned off when not needed. For example, this could be simple green stickers on switches which can be turned off and red stickers on switches which should not be turned off.
- At the end of each school day, make staff responsible for turning off electrical equipment within their classroom. Additionally, you could nominate someone to go around at the end of the day to ensure this is happening.
- For staff, promote all-around energy efficiency by incorporating it into PDRs so they are motivated to act responsibly. Potentially reward staff for good practice through the savings made by reducing energy consumption.

