

EST'S ENERGY SERVICES PROGRAMME

This case study is one of a series of eighteen produced by the EST's Energy Services programme which provides support to schemes that are seeking to offer energy services to the domestic and schools sector.

St Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School

Location: Stockton-on-Tees

Measures installed: Low energy lighting

Total cost: £1,356

SchoolEnergy grant: £678

Cost to school: £678

Anticipated savings/year: 5,472kWh, 0.66 tCO₂e, £327 – or 9% of electricity bill

Simple payback time: 4.1 years

In 2002, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council approached St Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School, as it did with other schools in the area, with news of the Energy Saving Trust's SchoolEnergy grant scheme. Mrs Metcalf, the Head Teacher, had a personal interest in energy efficiency, and so invited the Council to come to the school to talk to herself and the Governors' Premises Committee, and to conduct an energy survey of the school.

St Cuthbert's has 183 pupils, and a floor area of 1,284m². Constructed in 1971, the school is a single storey building with brick load-bearing cavity walls. The windows are of timber construction and are single-glazed throughout. A modern and well-equipped IT suite was added in recent years.

The energy report was very thorough and included:

- Energy and water consumption and targets, with performance against benchmarks;
- Carbon dioxide emissions and what that means for the wider environment;
- Why meter reading is an important part of saving energy and template forms for the school to use;

- Potential for improvements around the school, with cost and savings information; and
- Photos and graphs to illustrate the points being made.

Benchmarks provide representative values against which schools can compare their actual energy performance, to permit an assessment of energy efficiency to be made and enable remedial action to be taken. The report showed while the school was performing well against benchmarks in terms of water and gas consumption, electricity consumption was more than 220% above the national target. Improvements to the lighting at the school were recommended.

The energy report was discussed by the Premises Committee, and Mrs Metcalf presented the findings to the school staff. Everyone was quite supportive, and realised that saving energy was a good move for the school. It had already been identified that the lights in the school hall needed replacing, as the covers needed were no longer in production, and the energy report offered the school an energy efficient option.

The Council were very helpful to the school throughout the whole project. Arrangements between the school and the local authority means that Mrs Metcalf only had to make one phone call to the Council to agree for the work to go ahead. The work took place during term-time and took just under two days, with the contractors tidying up all their equipment in time for the lunch break, and then continuing with work in the afternoon. The Council also assisted St Cuthbert's with the SchoolEnergy grant application form, and writing their energy policy.



A small grant goes a long way in saving energy at St Cuthbert's Primary School

The school noticed a drop in their electricity bill following the installation of the low energy lighting. Stockton-on-Tees Council provide the school with read-outs of their energy consumption to help them keep track of their fuel usage, and have also supplied posters to put up around the school to remind staff and students to save energy.

The school is now fitting energy efficient lamps throughout the school as the existing lights need replacing, and water saving devices have been fitted in all the toilet cisterns. Budget allowing, future energy efficient work will include occupancy sensors for the lights in the corridors. The roof also needs replacing, which will offer a further opportunity.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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Contact:

Mrs M Metcalfe, Head

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LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTACT DETAILS:

Energy Management Section
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