

**Abingdon Learning Trust**

**Media Release**

**EV chargers and reaching net zero carbon emissions**

Over 2 years ago, the Trust Board approved ambitious targets for reaching a net zero position, by 2035 – the time a ‘generation of pupils’ who joined Reception in 2021 would spend in the Trust’s schools.

This commitment underpins all that the Trust now does: from climate education for all pupils to new sustainable cleaning products; fully renewable electricity and offset gas; significant investment in reducing the carbon footprint of IT equipment on site; the £1Million installation of new air source heat pumps funded from the government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, and now the EV chargers on school sites.

This forms part of our encouragement to reduce carbon use from petrol and diesel, which includes a generous cycle to work scheme for staff and the on-going replacement of Trust-owned vehicles by EV ones.

CEO, Dr Fiona Hammans said, “We know that our pupils and students have climate change as a top priority and that they are motivated to bring down carbon use and dramatically reduce the impact of climate change.

It is not an either/or decision to support net zero or have high academic standards in our schools. Results this summer at Rush Common School place the school in the top 20% nationally of primary schools, and Fitzharrys School continued to show significant value added for students who took GCSEs this summer, following the trend from last year’s results.

The Trust has taken action and now everything we do has us asking ‘what impact on reducing carbon will this have?’ whether it is a new cleaning contract or IT equipment, to what is on the menus in school canteens”.

The pupils themselves carry out sustainability work in each of the schools, alongside learning in the curriculum which has specific modules on climate change and living more sustainably.

All of the Trust’s net zero work is included across each 12 month period in the Trust’s Annual Report and Accounts.