

OUR YEARLY CARBON FOOTPRINT IS...

ENERGY



92 kgCO₂e per pupil

This is lower per pupil than most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

TRAVEL



59 kgCO₂e per pupil

This is lower per pupil than most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

PURCHASING



107 kgCO₂e per pupil

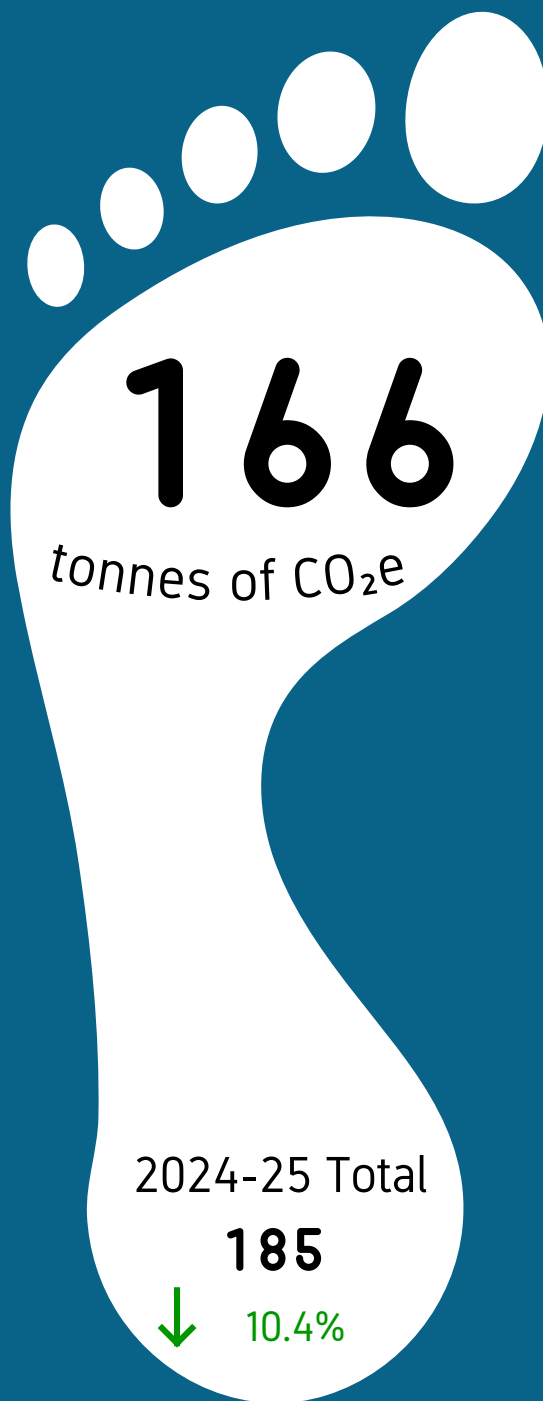
This is similar per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme

FOOD



146 kgCO₂e per pupil

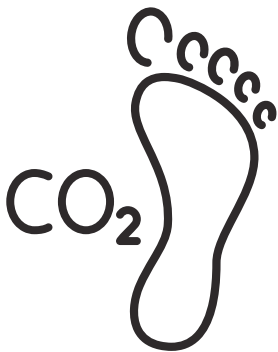
This is similar per pupil to most schools on the Zero Carbon Schools programme



Congratulations on calculating your annual carbon footprint!
Knowing your carbon footprint is an important first step.
What could you do to reduce it?

What is a carbon footprint?

A carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere by human activities. It can be calculated for a person, an organisation, or even a country, such as the United Kingdom.



What do the high, medium, low ratings mean?

See the table below for details of what is considered to be high, medium, or low carbon emissions per pupil per year. This was calculated using data from schools participating in Zero Carbon Schools 2024-25.

The ratings are most useful in comparing within the school and prioritising areas to take action.

The data is taken from a small number of schools (102), so having a red rating in any particular area is not necessarily bad, but could mean that there is a bigger potential for reduction than an area with a green rating.

Just by calculating your carbon footprint, you are ahead of the vast majority of schools in the country who haven't yet taken this step.

	High (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)	Medium (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)	Low (kg CO ₂ e per pupil)
Energy	More than 260	Between 140 and 260	Less than 140
Travel	More than 100	Between 60 and 100	Less than 60
Purchasing	More than 130	Between 70 and 130	Less than 70
Food	More than 170	Between 140 and 170	Less than 140

This carbon calculator is the first to be developed, by Green Schools Project, specifically for schools in the UK. We hope that you find it helpful to prioritise areas to make reductions through pupil projects and school-led initiatives. Continuing to take part in the Zero Carbon Schools programme will enable you to track your footprint year on year until you become a...

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOOD - 146 kgCO₂e per pupil

- Eliminate beef and lamb from your menu to see the biggest drop in carbon emissions.
- Have at least one meat free day each week.
- Work with your catering staff to improve the quality of the plant-based options.
- Update your school menu to give meat-free and plant-based options equal prominence to the meat dishes.
- Sign up to [School Plates](#) for specialist help on all these actions.
- Monitor how much food waste is being generated - [Food waste monitoring toolkit for schools | Zero Waste Scotland](#).
- Follow this 5-week plan to teach pupils how to reduce food waste: [Groundwork Food Waste Education Pack](#).
- Look into on-site composting - [Composting at School](#) - See also [Suffolk Schools Recycling](#) and [RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#).