

A whole school effort at Maryland Primary School led to savings of £3,500 and 9.5 tonnes CO₂ in a single year

Case study



Problem: The school's energy saving team and eco-warriors needed some inspiration

Solution: Energy Sparks provided insights and guidance on how to prioritise energy saving actions and get students involved in the fight against energy waste.

Results: In the 12 months since joining Energy Sparks, the school:

- Reduced gas consumption by 22% and electricity by 10%
- Saved £3,500
- Saved 9.5 tonnes of CO₂

Whole school effort drive energy saving improvements

Maryland Primary School joined Energy Sparks in July 2024 and hit the ground running from day one. The school's enthusiastic eco-warriors quickly teamed up with the existing energy-saving team, and every class elected its own energy conservation monitor to lead change.

Students have taken an active role in driving energy efficiency. They conduct regular spot checks to ensure lights and equipment are switched off after lessons, contribute to an energy efficiency reward scheme, support staff with holiday switch-off routines, and

even accompany the premises manager on tours to measure temperatures and identify open windows during the colder months.

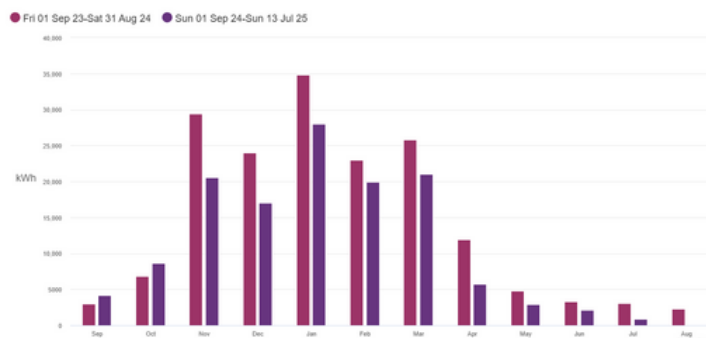
The eco-warriors also worked closely with the site supervisor, using Energy Sparks charts to analyse energy use. Their findings informed a review of heating schedules by the premises manager and senior leadership team.

Month by month comparison charts show a reduction in gas used every month between November 2024 and July 2025 compared with the previous year. ▶

As a result, the school has successfully reduced gas consumption by:

- Lowering the heating set point by 2°C
- Adjusting heating timings to better match occupancy
- Improving frost protection settings to prevent unnecessary weekend and holiday heating

Maryland Primary's proactive approach demonstrates how pupil involvement, combined with careful monitoring, can deliver measurable energy savings.



“ This great achievement is all down to the hard work of our brilliant group of eco-warriors, a group of students who help make Maryland as sustainable as possible. Their dedication and passion for reducing our energy usage has been transformative, and they are already coming up with new ideas on how to reduce our energy and gas usage even more next year! ”

Henry Watson, Science & Sustainability Lead
Maryland Primary School

Improving frost protection settings can make a big difference to out of hours energy use

Most school boilers have frost protection settings. They can be configured to turn the heating on at a low level to protect hot and cold water pipes against frost damage when the temperature is below 4°C outside and the school is unoccupied, for example at weekends and during holidays.

It is much more efficient to make sure your frost protection is working than to leave your heating running on full over weekends and during holidays if you are concerned about frost damage.

If you do have frost protection enabled, make sure it is configured efficiently:

- It only needs to come on if the outside temperature falls below 4°C,
- and the inside temperature falls below 8°C (a conservative value to avoid areas of the school away from the thermostat falling below 4°C).

Find out how Energy Sparks can help your school or Trust:

www.energysparks.uk
hello@energysparks.uk



Energy Sparks
Helping schools save energy