

## Estates Strategy

### Background:

The Romero Catholic Academy (TRCA) aims to provide a strategic Estates Strategy that aligns with its vision for Catholic education. The strategy focuses on creating a beacon of excellence within Estates providing pleasant, safe, and secure learning environments while ensuring compliance, reducing environmental impact, and optimising resources. By centralising core tasks, the strategy aims to streamline operations, empower schools, and promote value for money. The TRCA Estates Strategy will be implemented over a 5–10-year period, with clear outcomes and timescales to guide staff in maintaining and improving the premises.

Ultimately, as a group of schools, our mission is to come together as a ‘true community’ working for the common good. The ‘common good’ is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of families in our society and the wider world and the schools in which all those who learn, work and govern in Romero reside. The Estate strategy must be balanced with the needs of the individual schools and wider MAC with the allocation and sharing of resources so that all schools offer the same basic level of estate. No school/ estate left behind.

Furthermore, our estate strategy will be driven by a vision underpinned by Catholic social teaching so there is equality for all across the eight schools and an awareness that Pope Francis' 2015 in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* remains a profound invitation to everyone on the planet to care for our common home and the decisions we make in relation to social environment governance.

### Estates Vision:

#### • Investment in Buildings:

- Ensure buildings remain safe and in excellent condition and accessible spaces in the community.
- Provide caring and supportive learning environments for every child in every school that is distinctively Catholic, for example presence of holy spaces.
- Invest in the digital infrastructure of schools to enhance teaching and learning.

#### 2. Safe, Secure, and Stimulating Learning Environments:

- Create learning environments where pupils, students and staff feel safe and secure.
- Regularly assess safety concerns and implement necessary improvements.
- Review and enhance site security measures, including evacuation and lockdown practices.
- Promote engagement and training related to safety and compliance.

#### 3. Environmentally Friendly Spaces living out Laudate Si:

- Pope Francis is clear that “Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us.” With this in mind, our role is key to care for our common home and develop premises that are environmentally friendly and have reduced carbon emissions.
- Obtain environmental policies from suppliers and contractors as part of our commitment to Live Simply.
- Monitor and reduce carbon emissions across the MAC.
- Identify and implement decarbonization plans MAC-wide.
- Evaluate and procure energy-efficient technologies.

#### 4. Strategic Financial Procurement:

- Identify areas for centralised procurement to achieve cost savings and efficiency for the common good.
- Utilise frameworks to ensure the best value in procurement.
- Ensure all financial procedures and policies are complied with.
- Ensure all BDES Estate policies are procedures are complied with.
- All SCA and Capital projects are to be approved by Core Committee One and ratified by the Board of Directors in accordance with TRCA’s Scheme of delegation.



## Objectives:

### 1. Holistic Overview of Premises:

- Gather and analyse premises data to inform capital investment and prioritisation.
- Use data to ensure safe, secure, and compliant learning environments.
- Explore decarbonisation and green credentials across the Trust.

### 2. Capital Investment and Prioritisation:

- Implement a long-term School Condition Allocation (SCA) investment program.
- Prioritise joint funding projects to strategically allocate capital across the Trust.
- Review and update the SCA Policy to align with investment goals.
- Seek grant funding opportunities and explore government capital rebuilding programs.

### 3. Safe and Secure Buildings:

- Regularly assess and address safety concerns through compliance monitoring and audits.
- Support School Business Managers (SBMs) and Principals in maintaining secure premises.
- Enhance site security measures and engage in national safety initiatives.

### 4. Schools Fit for Purpose:

- Ensure schools reflect the distinctiveness of faith in the environment both inside and outside.
- Ensure premises are accessible, stimulating, and compliant.
- Review and update equality audits to address work areas.
- Plan and budget for cyclical redecoration programs.
- Review and improve accessibility provisions across the Trust.

### 5. Strategic Procurement:

- Identify areas for centralised procurement based on school needs.
- Conduct condition surveys and procure plans of all sites for evaluation and monitoring.
- Implement digital procurement through centralised frameworks.



## Success Indicators:

### 1. School Investment:

- Implementation of a 3–5-year SCA investment plan.
- Understanding of funding limitations and prioritisation of capital investment.
- Full allocation and expenditure of DFC and SCA capital funding.
- Statutorily compliant and H&S compliant buildings.
- Development plans for school buildings across the Trust.
- Successful grant applications for decarbonisation and building needs.

### 2. Safe and Secure Buildings:

- Positive feedback from staff and pupils regarding contracted work.
- Ongoing evaluation of risks, H&S compliance, and good practices.
- Enhanced site security measures and improved evacuation and lockdown practices.
- Empowered school teams ensuring safe environments for teachers and learners.

### 3. Schools Fit for Purpose:

- Live Simply Award is achieved in all schools and the MAC
- Comprehensive data on the condition, fire safety, and accessibility.
- Addressed equality issues through prioritised SCA programs.
- Accessible provisions in place for all staff and pupils.
- Proper planning and budgeting for cyclical maintenance.
- Implementation of MAC-wide decarbonisation plans.

### 4. Strategic Procurement:

- Cost savings achieved through centralised procurement.
- Increased utilisation of digital platforms and e-learning resources.
- Availability of building data for evaluation and planning.
- Efficient and cost-effective digital procurement processes.

The Romero Catholic Academy will regularly monitor and assess the progress of the Estates Strategy to ensure its successful implementation and alignment with the Education Vision.

## References

- [DfE Good estate management for schools](#)
- [DfE Good estate management for schools/the-fundamentals-of-good-estate-management](#)
- [DfE Benefits of strategic estate management.pdf](#)
- [DfE The information you need to know about your estate.odt](#)
- [DfE Good estate management for schools/tools-and-checklists](#)

