SFT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

NET ZERO

SUSTAINABLE PLACE

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SFT Outcomes
Demonstrating progress with impact

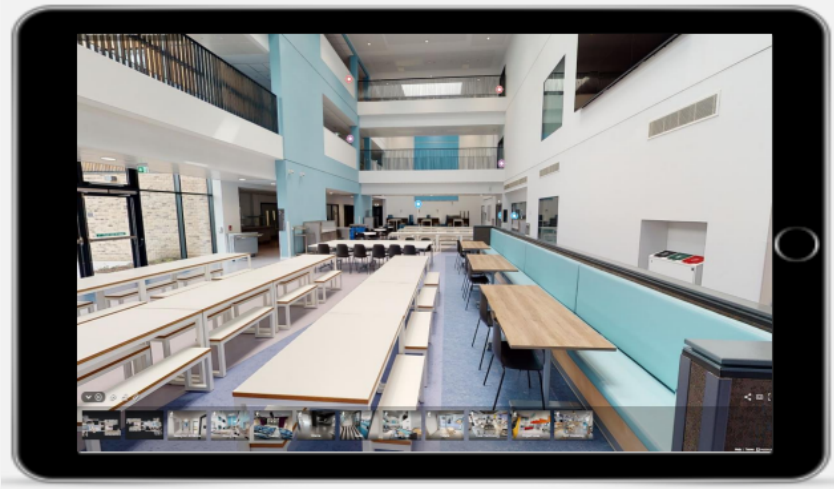
PRIMARY OUTCOME

09

TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED CONSTRUCTION, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND USAGE OPTIMISATION

SECONDARY OUTCOMES

Technology supporting pupils navigate their way around new school environment



The transition from primary to an unfamiliar, larger and new school environment secondary school can be a stressful experience for pupils, so the ability to make pupils comfortable with their new surroundings will undoubtedly support their wellbeing and ability to enjoy and apply themselves within their new school.

Using existing tools used by SFT's Infrastructure Technology team, the team partnered with The City of Edinburgh Council and Queensferry High School, to develop a *virtual reality model* of Queensferry High School prior to its opening that provided a floor by floor and room by room navigation, ensuring everyone would be familiar with their new surroundings before the school opened.

The SFT team led the development of the idea and created the project by bringing together key project partners and developed national guidance using its *InfraTech Navigator*, that is used to support Scotland's public sector implement technology that improves infrastructure performance.

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As Queensferry High School was a brand new school, built within the Scotland's Schools for the Future programme, all pupils and teachers were new to the school but had missed their orientation visits due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

By working with The City of Edinburgh Council and staff at Queensferry High School, the Infrastructure Technology team explored the value of technology as a way of making pupils comfortable with their new surroundings that will also support their wellbeing and ability to enjoy and apply themselves within their new school.

The virtual model of the school was designed to be easily accessible via a phone, laptop or tablet device, using the latest technology to create a data-rich visual model.

Such has been the success of the virtual model (with 5,500 virtual visits to the models by staff, pupils and the community) that it has now been adopted by multiple councils and within many schools across Scotland.

The virtual model has provided additional value to the school and its users, by:

- Its reuse to engage with future intakes of primary 7 school pupils in an engaging way
- Developing it further for educational purposes and to supplement the existing curriculum
- As Queensferry High School contains facilities for the public to use, the model is available to help the local community navigate the building
- Using the virtual model, school maintenance teams can carry out pre-site visit checks to improve efficiencies in how maintenance works are delivered
- Explore further uses of the virtual model to support project delivery, including the Care Inspectorate

Kenny Manson, Deputy Head of Queensferry High School said: "The model has provided a really important asset to our school community. We are excited to showcase our fantastic new facility within this digital environment and support our young people and staff in the short and long term."

Councillor Ian Perry, Education Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "This virtual reality model is a great way for our young people, staff and parents to see inside the school.

"Moving into a new school can sometimes be quite daunting, especially given the impact of COVID-19, but this virtual tour means they can all be familiar with their new surroundings before the school terms starts. This model and the school itself are great examples of our ambition to create a sustainable and digitally-enabled education estate."