To empower children to explore and understand the world through data and to develop skills to use data effectively.

The Urban Data School is a joint initiative between Researchers at The Open University and Milton Keynes schools developing a data literacy education programme for primary and secondary school students, that uses Smart City data as a key educational resource.

Data literacy is the ability to use data as part of complex reasoning and to accurately critique and interpret data to ask and answer meaningful questions. It is an important civic skill that forms the foundation of an innovative knowledge economy.

Smart City initiatives around the world have started to make large-scale data sets available, covering urban issues such as energy, transport and environment. These urban data sets represent an as-of-yet untapped educational resource.

The Urban Data School enables pupils to understand the importance of data by providing them with the basic tools to critically analyse complex Smart City data sets, and to use data literacy skills to foster an understanding of urban issues, particularly around sustainability. The project will deliver an innovative data learning platform that will provide access to curated data sets and teaching materials.