



Sustainability Policy Statement

‘ESD aims to ensure that “by 2030, all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”. (Sustainable Development Goal 4.7)’

The following has been prepared as part the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, and in keeping with the principles and themes of ESD to 2030.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement (“the Statement”) is to outline how our school promotes sustainability and climate action, through our actions and activities. Sustainability can be defined as the ability to exist and develop without depleting natural resources for the future.

Scope

Sustainability is a community issue and applies to all students, teachers and employees of our school. Parents and guardians should note, and where possible, promote, the Statement. The Board of Management of the school will ensure that decisions made in respect of the school align with the Statement.

Aims

By introducing this policy, the school hopes:

- To become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments
- To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. Recycling, energy and water
- To develop a responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment
- To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling, scooting and walking to school.
- To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth’s resources through personal life style and participation in collective environmental decision making.
- To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, European and Global Communities.
- To acquire open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.
- Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences the children will acquire skills to help care for our environment immediately and have a long term impact
- To understand the actions that people can have on the environment.



Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement. It clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school.
- Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme, and this is co-ordinated effectively in our school.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects. Environmental/Green issues are key elements of both S.E.S.E and S.P.H.E.
- All our school policies are aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.

Environmental sustainability

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, offering a well-defined, controllable way for schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school.

- Our school is part of the Green Schools Programme. Our school has achieved 5 Green Flags and are currently working on achieving our 6th flag.
- Our school engages with the SEAI Energy in Education resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption. We have seen a reduction in the amount of energy and fuel consumption since our base year of 2013.
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible. We use recycled paper for photocopying/art, we use refillable soap dispensers, every pupil has a reusable lunchbox and drinks bottle.
- Our school has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, energy.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school e.g. our school partakes in the Walk to School Week
- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme:
<https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education.



Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at local level.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- All school staff are provided with the training in the area of conflict resolution, in order to support and affect positive student behaviour.

Economic Sustainability

- A non-competitive ethos of co-operation and sharing of resources is modelled in our school's allocation of its resources.
- Students are involved in the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school e.g. student council involvement
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills e.g. Junior Entrepreneur Programme
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practise in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, along with a mutual regard and respect for fellow students, and positive social interaction and relationships.
- Our school ethos, in tandem with the curriculum, strives to prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society.
- Our school demonstrates a commitment to community engagement, and encourages the community's involvement with the school.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community.

Teacher Competence

- Our Teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities

Ballyvary Central National School



- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects
- Our school has a Green Team and are in the process of setting up a Student Council who will be involved in decisions about actions we need to take to uphold our aims and ethos.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects
- Our schools are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community

Goals

Our school will aim to achieve our 6th Green Flag for Global Citizenship-Litter and Waste in 2025.

Review

To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

Chairperson BOM

Principal

Date: _____