

Sustainability Policy Statement



Nenagh Community

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Excellence in Education • Care • Equality • Community • Respect

All public service bodies are required under the Climate Action Plan to adhere to the Public Service Climate Action Mandate – and to develop Climate Action Roadmaps setting out how they will deliver on their energy efficiency and emission reduction targets.

Schools now have a separate Climate Action Mandate under which they are required to adopt a Sustainability Policy Statement. The School Sector Climate Action Mandate can be read in full here: [gov.ie - School Sector Climate Action Mandate \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

The second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – ESD to 2030 also informs the content of the following Sustainability Policy Statement template.

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, and has been accepted by the Board of Management of our school.

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.

Vision, mission and values

Nenagh CNS is an ETB school. ETB schools are state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

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, its relationship to the vision and mission of the 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.
- 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.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network

- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter.

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 been awarded 4 Green Flags for the following themes;

1. *Litter & Waste*
2. *Energy*
3. *Water*
4. *Travel*

We are currently working on the theme Biodiversity and will be applying for this Green Flag in 2023/2024. Our school has a Green Schools Committee comprising staff and students. The Committee meet once a term and bring back the up to date information to their class teachers. The Green Schools Co-Ordinators ensure that information is up to date on the school website and social media accounts.

- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- 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, e.g. recycled paper for printing, printing using black ink.
- Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places, (Green Schools Noticeboard).
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning e.g. our school has a school garden and outdoor balcony area.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity e.g. bug hotels, bird feeders, log piles, leaf pile, compost bin, raised beds.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking, cycling and scooting to school. E.g. Our school has a bicycle parking area. Our school takes part in Walk to School Week.

- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme: We received our Cycle Parking from Green Schools when we were working towards our Green Flag for the theme Travel.
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education Green Schools & Picker Pals.

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.
- Goodness Me, Goodness You! (GMGY) is the patron's curriculum for Community National Schools. The GMGY curriculum makes an important contribution in enabling each child to live their life to the full while exploring their identity and their place in the world.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.

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. We hope to set up a student council during the current school year 2023/2024.
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles. E.g. clothes collection with All-Tex Recyclers.
- 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. E.g. engagement with providers of CPD programmes in this area.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities
- Our school has a Green Schools Committee who are involved in making decisions about maintaining/supporting previous themes, (Litter & Waste, Water, Energy, Travel), and current theme, Biodiversity.

Goals

Our school will aim to achieve our 5th Green Flag for Biodiversity during the school year 2023/2024.

Our school will organise a clothes collection annually.

Our school is taking part in the ESD Green Space Project along with other TETB schools during the school year 2023/2024, (TETB Green Space Project). It is planned to take part in this project also in the school year 2024/2025.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 1/2/24. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.