

ST. JOSEPH'S N. S.
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St. Joseph's Sustainability Policy Statement

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

Our catholic school's vision is to nurture excellence in education with due recognition for all other religions St. Joseph's N.S. is committed to the provision of the highest quality education for all its pupils by enabling each child to reach his/her full potential and maximise the benefits of the educational system.

Our school's mission in St. Joseph's N.S. aims to create a nurturing and caring environment where staff, pupils and parents support each other in the pursuit of holistic and inclusive education. In close and proactive partnership with family, church and community, we accompany each other in our journey towards the fullest possible expression of human flourishing. We seek to instil in our students recognition of self - worth; an appreciation and tolerance of difference; a respect and kindness towards others and a caring attitude towards the environment.

Our schools values focus on equality, inclusion, democracy which is child - centred with parents/guardians as partners, in line with our ethos and commitment to ESD we will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils, respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible within their school community and as a global citizen..

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 being identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- All our school policies are aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter
<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/a1d6e-education-for-sustainable-development-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. We have a number of Green Flags from past years and we are currently working towards achieving A green flag with a focus on waste/ global responsibility / recycling. Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to ensure the embedding of our SDG goals through daily small actions, procedures and practices
- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption. Our primary target is to reduce night usage by ensuring all devices shut down in the evening and during breaks and lights switched off.
- Our school will embed a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.

- Our school is developing a comprehensive policy 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 will clearly display information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Through our developing biodiversity programme our school will actively promote and foster an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning. Our new outdoor weather station/ school garden is now timetabled for use to support outdoor learning
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity through our portfolio project and future biodiversity garden-a project which will be completed in collaboration with our parent association and school community
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. We have now got three bicycle storage areas for staff and children. We partake in Walk to school week
- Our school council have engaged with the town Council and will promote the Safe Routes to School programme:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- Our students with a focus on our student council will 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 is provided with 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, through the student council will be involved in the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school.
- 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 with the support of our HSCL encourages the community's involvement with the school.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity within the school

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
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects - the creation of our outdoor learning area.
- Our school has a Student Council/ Sustainability Committee/ Green Team who are involved in decisions about our SDG goals

Goals

1. Our school will aim to achieve a Green Flag for waste/Recycling by 2024
2. Our school is working on the Blue Star project
3. Our school has the bronze award and is working towards silver in The Rights Respecting Schools Award
4. Our school will continue its work on supporting countries like Ukraine and Africa in collecting resources and recycling school/ library books and thus develop global citizenship
5. Our school council will make important decisions on some budget allocation of resources, timetabling and project work, school environment, outdoor learning space
6. Our staff and children will build their own capacity in the area of ESD
7. Our school will further embed a regard and respect for fellow students and members of the school community
8. Our school leadership will be vigilant in promoting energy saving measures










Implementation and review

This Statement was ratified by the Board of Management 17/10/23 and implemented from 17/10/23.

Sr. Joan Waters, Chairperson

Dr. Roz Morris, Principal

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

Results of Staff Self- Assessment of ESD October 2023 Also assessed and reviewed by the Board and Management/ Parent Association /Student Council October 2023			
ESD Statement	Staff Assessment	Focus	Action By:2025
1.Whole school approach to sustainability	Emergent	 Adopt a transparent policy in line with our ethos  Keep informed on ESD developments	Establish by 2024 Embed by 2024
2.Environmental Sustainability	Established	 Green flag  Comprehensive recycling  Energy efficiency measures  SEAI resources  Display info  Facilitate outdoor learning	Establish by 2024 Establish by 2024 Establish by 2024 Establish by 2024 Embedded by 2025
3.Social Sustainability	Established	 Problem solving at community level  Global citizenship  Inclusion/differentiation  Conflict resolution CPD  Extra-curricular activities on sustainability	Establish by 2025 Establish by 2024 Embedded by 2024 Continue Establish by 2025
4.Economic Sustainability	Established	 Students decision making around resources  Promote circular economy	Establish 2025 Establish 2024
5.Cultural Sustainability	Embedded	 Foster regard and respect for fellow students	Embed 2023-24
6.Teacher /SNA Competence	Pre-Emergent	 Build own capacity  Become familiar with17 SDG's  School leadership guide a whole-school approach	Establish 2025 Establish 2025 Establish 2024
Student Competence	Embedded	 Be knowledgeable about SDG's  Understand global consequence of indiv action  Student council/ green school/ sustainability team	Establish 2025 Establish 2025 Embed 2023-2024

The above results were translated into smart targets and Goals for our School Sustainability Policy Statement: October 2023