

Sustainability Policy Statement

Intermediate School Killorglin



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 Manager 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 Manager of the school will ensure that decisions made in respect of the school align with the Statement.

Vision, mission and values

The Intermediate School, Killorglin is a lay Catholic School under Unitary Management. The School is open to all young people acknowledging their different beliefs.

The School wishes to educate its pupils, in happy and pleasant surroundings and to achieve their potential, to develop their talents, to strive for excellence and to search for truth.

The pupils will learn to appreciate loyalty to their families, to School, to Country and to God and in learning this will understand service to their fellow human beings and to their community.

Pupils will always be encouraged to enjoy leisure in life, to participate in sport, in creative activities, to be inventive and to be generous with their talents.

The policy of the Intermediate School is to create equality of opportunity for both girls and boys. This aspiration of equality is applied in the choice and range of subjects, in educational trips and in social activities.

The School strives to create an atmosphere, which enables the young people to relate to one another in a way which is characterised by mutual respect.

The aim of the School is to produce a concerned Christian who is conscious of his dignity as a person, is familiar with his heritage and is equipped to take his place in his own environment.

The School also aims to foster a sense of community between teachers and pupils, a strong work ethic, a feeling of comradeship, a sense of dedication, help, encouragement and conviviality.

The School encourages pride and enthusiasm in our Irish background, a love of country and its tradition and to realise that they are members of a larger world.

All these elements are bonded together by a strong School dedication to its Catholic Christian idea.

Mission Statement and our school crest: *Virtus et Veritas* (Truth & Courage).

Principal's message: We, as a school, strive to live up to these values and we understand the importance of nurturing individual aspiration and well as the importance of contributing to our community.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals:

- **SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **SDG 4 Quality Education:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **SDG 5 Gender Equality:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school is working towards 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 we are applying a coordinated approach in our school.
- Opportunities are being identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- All our school policies are in the process of being aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- We are working towards having resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability to be adequate and sufficient at all levels. Online resources are shared with teachers as are classroom displays on SDGs and our sustainability statement. This process will be embedded in our annual whole school review.
- Our school has started to carry out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.
- 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 currently have five flags: *Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel and Biodiversity.*

We received our Biodiversity Flag in 2025, and the Travel Flag in 2022. The work carried out to receive the Travel Flag was to promote alternative means of travelling to school.

Initiatives included:

- Installed a covered bike rack
- The promotion of alternatives to private transport
- Promoted walking and cycling to school within the school community and extended our efforts to the local community

Previous Flags (Litter and Waste 2016, Energy 2018 and Water 2020)

Since participating in the Green Schools Initiative, we have enforced the following:

- Bins are categorised into the following headings: All Plastics, Glass bottles, Recycling, General Waste and Compost bin
- Bins in each classroom
- We strive to recycle everything we can
- Changed syphons on toilets which gave out less water
- A Water-butt to store and re-use rainwater
- Taps now releasing less water.
- Water bills are analysed on a regular basis
- Reporting of leaks is more frequent

We have a Green School's Officer (a student) who assists staff and students in all Greens Schools related activities. We have a notice board on the school corridor which contains all new information and projects. A newly appointed Green Schools officer is selected every two to four years

- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption.
- Our school engages with Junk Kouture programme, with TY students, in their resources and competition. This educates students in the area of sustainable development through creating wearable art from waste material.
- Our first-year students each year participate in the County Clean-Up (*Green Schools*).
- Our TY students each year do a clean-up on Rossbeigh Beach.

- 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.....
 - We encourage the use of refillable water bottles and have a potable water tap for student use.
 - All plastic bottles and drink cans are separated and recycled through the Re-Turn scheme.
 - Staff are reminded to shut down electrical equipment at the end of the day.
 - Staff are encouraged to turn off lights in classrooms and corridors when possible.
 - We have 'wild' areas where the grass isn't cut to promote biodiversity.
 - We have erected nest boxes for swifts, birds which are on the red list of endangered species.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment. [e.g. recycled paper for printing]
- 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 through the *Grow it, Cook it, Eat it* short course for students with Additional Learning Needs. There are Veggie Pods installed in the Science Building since 2022 which are used for this programme, and for Agricultural Science projects.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning with our new Polytunnel which was built in 2023, to integrate hands-on sustainable development directly into our student's daily routines. By actively growing vegetables on-site and continuing these projects through at-home learning, students bridge the gap between classroom theory and real-world environmental action.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity [e.g. planters]
- 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 or any other programmes working in this field.

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.
- As a part of the Gaisce programme, students have been involved in working in the Community Garden and painting murals in the local community.

Our school is a part of the Amber Flag programme.

- The Amber Flag is a mental health initiative designed to help schools promote positive mental health within the educational system.
- We received our first Amber Flag in 2022.
- We hosted fundraisers such as a pancake day for the whole school and a sponsored swim for second year students.
- We also had whole school participation in Stand-Up Awareness week with BelongTo's resources being shown and discussed in SPHE and Wellbeing classes.
- We have as a whole school participated in rainbow day in our school each year since 2021.



- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated. We have a strong level of support through the SEN department and our ASD unit. There is a high level of integration of students from the ASD unit in mainstream classes and activities. We provide physical access and accommodation for students who require this support, e.g., wheelchair users.
- RE – Team Hope's 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal' is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty.
- TY – Sleep out for homelessness fundraiser for Focus Ireland. Standing in solidarity with those experiencing homelessness.

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 have a very active student council, represented by two students from each class group. Most recently hosting a jersey day fundraiser for Stand4Feile.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills, e.g. TY Mini Company, LCVP and the Student Enterprise Programme with 1st Years – winning in the Junior Category in 2026.
- 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 practice in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy for example in Home EC, Economics, RE, LCVP, Junk Kouture and in subjects with a practical component.

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 for example our School Show, TY giving back to the community and Green-Schools team involvement with our local community.
- 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.
 - Felting workshops with experienced local artists - provided knowledge of a practice which is relevant in our rural area, enhancing sustainability awareness of wool as a valuable resource, which created a cross-curricular link between Art and Home Ec. departments.
 - Junk Kouture Education Hub for Teachers, CPD 1-4 on Being Responsible and being Circular in Fashion and Sustainability. (*Art and Home Economics Teachers*)
- Our teachers are provided with information on available CPD in the area of sustainability. All relevant information received from the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie) and the quarterly ESD Newsletter are shared with staff.

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, e.g. Green Schools, Amber Flag, Gaisce, Mentor programme
- Our school has a Student Council who are involved in a range of school decisions and activities including, equal and inclusive practices, the raising of student queries and issues and community links with other local school councils.
- Our school has a Student Council/ Green Team who are involved in decisions about many areas including sustainability
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects [e.g. Tidy Towns or other local community organisations working in this area]
- All TY students have the opportunity to participate in local community action on sustainability projects:-
 - Rewrite Climate Programme
 - GAA Future Leaders
 - Junk Kouture
 - Gaisce: visiting the local nursing home, volunteering in the local Saint Vincent de Paul charity shop, working in the Polytunnel, painting murals in the local community alongside a local artist.
- Our first-year students participate in the Astellas Calendar competition, creating artwork based upon Environmental and Sustainable Development themes.
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community.

Goals

We continuously seek to consider goals that will aid our drive to sustainability

For 2026-2027:

- Increase the levels of segregated waste around the school
- Achieve our 6th Green Flag; Global Citizenship Litter and Waste

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 01/09/26. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

Signed:



Name JOE O'DWYER

Position Manager

Date 01 / 09 / 26

