



Swords Sustainability Policy

February 2026

Date for Review:
February 2028

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal (Secretary to Board)

Date: _____

Date: _____

1. Introduction

Swords Community College (SCC) aims to provide positive learning environments to enable its students to develop independent learning skills. We want all our young people to have a positive experience of education within our school. This policy applies to all students attending Swords Community College.

This policy outlines the school's commitment to environmental, social and economic sustainability and is aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Through this policy, Swords Community College seeks to embed sustainable thinking and practice across all aspects of school life.

2. Policy Aims

The aims of this Sustainability Policy are to:

- Promote awareness and understanding of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** among students, staff and the wider school community.
- Integrate sustainability into teaching, learning, leadership and daily school practices.
- Foster an inclusive, respectful and equitable school environment that reflects our diverse community.
- Reduce the environmental footprint of the school.
- Empower all students, including those in the Additional Needs Unit, to participate meaningfully in sustainability actions.

3. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Swords Community College acknowledges the UN SDGs as a shared global framework for creating a more sustainable, just and inclusive world. The school particularly supports the following goals:

- **SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing:** Promoting physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.
- **SDG 4 – Quality Education:** Providing inclusive and equitable education for all learners.
- **SDG 5 – Gender Equality:** Ensuring equality, respect and opportunity for all.
- **SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation:** Encouraging responsible water use.
- **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy:** Promoting energy efficiency and awareness.
- **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:** Supporting inclusion, diversity and equal participation.
- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Communities:** Engaging with the local Swords community.

- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:** Reducing waste and promoting reuse and recycling.
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action:** Raising awareness of climate change and encouraging action.
- **SDG 15 – Life on Land:** Supporting biodiversity and care of the natural environment.
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Working with families, local groups and external agencies.

4. Whole-School Approach to Sustainability

Sustainability at Swords Community College is a shared responsibility. A whole-school approach ensures that sustainability is embedded in:

- School leadership and planning
- Curriculum and classroom practice
- School environment and operations
- Student voice and participation
- Community engagement

5. Inclusion and Equality

In line with **SDG 4 and SDG 10**, sustainability initiatives will be inclusive and accessible. The school will:

- Ensure students in An Cosán are supported to participate in sustainability activities.
- Value cultural diversity and recognise different perspectives on sustainability.
- Promote respect, equality and dignity for all members of the school community.

6. Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Sustainability education is integrated across all year groups and subject areas such as CSPE, Geography, Science, Wellbeing, Home Economics, Politics and Society, Business and Economics.

Teaching and learning will:

- Reference the UN SDGs where appropriate.
- Encourage critical thinking, problem-solving and active citizenship.

- Use experiential and practical learning approaches.
- Support student leadership and initiative.

7. Environmental Sustainability in Practice

Swords Community College demonstrates its commitment to sustainability through a range of established practices and initiatives. These actions support key **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and encourage active student participation.

Key Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainable Consumption & Waste Reduction (SDG 12)

- Operation of a **Swap Shop**, promoting reuse and reducing waste.
- Participation in **Junk Kouture**, a sustainable fashion competition highlighting issues around fast fashion and textile waste.

Climate Action & Active Travel (SDGs 3 & 13)

- Promotion of **cycling and walking to school**, supporting student wellbeing and reducing carbon emissions.
- Awareness campaigns encouraging environmentally responsible choices.

Community & Local Environment (SDG 11)

- Organisation of **local litter pick-ups**, fostering pride in the local area and environmental responsibility.
- Recycling bins in every classroom that is emptied and managed by the Green Schools Committee.

Environmental Protection & Biodiversity (SDGs 6, 7 & 15)

- Reduction of energy and water usage – installation of new water stations for refilling reusable bottles
- Reduction of single-use plastics.
- Provision of orange bin specifically for the recycling of plastic bottles within our school.
- Recycling bin in every classroom.
- Promotion of biodiversity through green spaces and outdoor learning.

Student Voice, Creativity & Education (SDG 4)

- Active **Green-Schools Committee** leading sustainability actions across the school.

- Creation and display of **student artwork centred on sustainability themes**, raising awareness through creative expression.

8. Social and Economic Sustainability

In support of **SDGs 3, 4, 5 and 11**, the school will:

- Promote wellbeing and positive relationships.
- Encourage responsible use of resources.
- Support ethical decision-making and active citizenship.
- Foster links with local community groups and organisations.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management and School Leadership

- Support and endorse this policy.
- Ensure sustainability is considered in school planning and decision-making.

Sustainability / Green-Schools Committee

- Lead sustainability initiatives.
- Promote student voice and inclusion.
- Monitor progress and report annually.

Staff

- Model sustainable behaviour.
- Integrate sustainability and the SDGs into teaching and learning.

Students

- Participate actively in sustainability actions.
- Act as ambassadors for sustainability within the school.
- Students in Swords Community College are engaged in an Erasmus project with fellow DDLETB schools, and fellow students in Germany, Greece and France. The focus of this project is sustainability.

Parents/Guardians and Community Partners

- Support sustainability initiatives.

- Engage with school and community projects.
- Swords Community College is member of World Wise Global Schools, and have recently been awarded the Passport. Teachers, student and the senior leadership team have all engaged in training and workshops dedicated to global citizenship education.

10. Monitoring and Review

Progress will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability or Green-Schools Committee. This policy will be formally reviewed every **two years** to ensure it remains relevant, effective and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Conclusion

Swords Community College is committed to playing its part in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Through education, inclusion and action, the school aims to empower students to create a more sustainable and equitable future for themselves, their community and the wider world.