Wilsons Hospital School

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)

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 school's vision *is to foster a learning community that demonstrates responsible stewardship of the environment and empowers all members of Wilson's Hospital School to contribute positively to a sustainable future. Through education, action and leadership, we aim to reduce our environmental impact, promote sustainable practices and inspire students to become informed and responsible global citizens. This vision embraces the entire school community, including students, staff, parents, alumni and the Board of Management.*

Our school's mission *is to provide an educational environment that promotes dignity and respect for the individual and is constantly committed to the provision of a caring family atmosphere in which education can flourish. Wilson's Hospital School seeks to develop responsible, compassionate and engaged young people who contribute positively to society. Within this mission, we are committed to embedding sustainability and environmental responsibility across all aspects of school life. Through teaching, learning and action, we encourage students and staff to become active stewards of the environment, promoting sustainable practices in areas such as waste management, energy and water conservation, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable travel and climate action.*

Our school's values *are reflected in our motto,* ***"Res Non Verba" – "Deeds, Not Words."*** *This principle encourages members of the Wilson's Hospital School community to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability through meaningful action rather than intention alone. We seek to foster responsibility, integrity, service and leadership, empowering students and staff to make positive environmental choices in their daily lives. By translating values into action, we aim to create a school culture that actively contributes to a more sustainable and equitable future for all.*

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 coordinated 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 keeps up to date with developments in ESD, including the Department of Education ESD Newsletter and other relevant national guidance.

Environmental sustainability

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme that provides schools with a structured framework to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility. Through Green-Schools, students are encouraged to take an active role in improving the environmental performance of their school and local community.

- Wilson's Hospital School is part of the Green-Schools Programme and is currently working towards achieving its first Green Flag, focusing on the theme of **Litter and Waste**.
- Our school has an active **Green Schools Committee** comprising student representatives from 1st Year to 6th Year together with staff members. The committee promotes environmental awareness, coordinates sustainability initiatives and encourages the whole school community to adopt environmentally responsible practices.
- As part of our work towards the Waste Green Flag, students collect recycling bins from classrooms every Thursday morning during Tutor Time. Each classroom and common area is equipped with two recycling bins: blue bins for paper recycling and white bins for plastic recycling, supporting effective waste segregation and recycling throughout the school.

- Our school incorporates sustainable development themes across the curriculum, helping students develop an understanding of environmental conservation, climate action and sustainable living.
- Our school has a comprehensive recycling system in place and seeks to use recycled and recyclable materials wherever possible.
- Our school promotes responsible management of resources, including waste reduction, energy conservation and water conservation, and encourages environmentally conscious behaviour among students and staff.
- Wilson's Hospital School actively promotes respect for and responsibility towards the natural environment and encourages all members of the school community to contribute positively to sustainability initiatives.
- Our school promotes outdoor learning opportunities and uses its extensive grounds as a valuable resource for environmental education.
- Our school is committed to enhancing biodiversity on campus through the protection and development of natural habitats and green spaces.
- Our school encourages sustainable transport options, including walking, cycling and carpooling where feasible, and supports initiatives that promote sustainable travel.
- Wilson's Hospital School will continue to engage with programmes and initiatives that support environmental education and sustainability, providing students with opportunities to become informed and active environmental citizens.

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.
- School staff are supported through relevant training and policies in areas such as positive behaviour, wellbeing, restorative practice, child

safeguarding and conflict resolution, in order to support respectful relationships and 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 decision-making through the Student Council and other student voice structures, including consultation on school life, wellbeing, environmental initiatives and resource use where appropriate.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn enterprise and small business skills, including through Transition Year enterprise, mini-company style activities and project-based learning.
- 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 encouraged to engagement with the Green Schools Committee

Teachers are encouraged to use Croke park hours to engage with further learning around the area of sustainability

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer-to-peer learning activities
- Our school has a Student Council and Green Team who are involved in decisions about Waste management and Sustainability policies within the school
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community

Goals

During the lifetime of this Statement, our school will aim to develop a student-led sustainability group; review energy, waste, water and biodiversity practices; increase visible sustainability information around the school; strengthen curriculum links to ESD; and identify a suitable Green-Schools or equivalent environmental action target.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 22 September 2026. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if required by changes in national guidance or school priorities.

Signed: _____ (Principal)

Date: 29. 09. 2026

Signed: _____ (Chairperson)

Date: 29.09.2026