Clogher Road Community College

Sustainability Policy Statement –Draft



June 2026

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Introduction

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. This policy outlines Clogher Road Community College's commitment to this mandate and our roadmap for meeting it's requirements. It is also informed by The Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development - 'ESD to 2030'.

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)

Board Of Management Recommendations

This policy will be presented to the BOM at the next meeting in September 2026. Following recommendations, changes may be made to the policy draft.

Clogher Road Community College Mission Statement

At Clogher Road Community College we are passionate about education – in all its forms. We want our students to leave school knowing their value, willing to explore their passions and to be leaders in whatever path they take.

We celebrate excellence; be that in the classroom, on the basketball court or playing the trumpet! Every student has something of value to offer and we endeavour to find ways to allow our students to succeed and find their talent.

Our vision is to ensure Clogher Road Community College provides an equality-based education for all students. We firmly believe that a diverse community benefits everybody and we aim to create an environment that is welcoming and recognises the different talents and strengths that everybody brings to the 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 mission and ethos demonstrate our school's commitment to Education for Sustainable Development. Both our curricular and extra-curricular work contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a particular focus on the following:

SDG2 Zero Hunger - provision of breakfast club and school lunches

SDG3 Good Health and Wellbeing – several wellbeing events throughout the school year

SDG4 Quality Education - both formal and non-formal education

SDG10 Reduced Inequalities - We strive to level the playing field for our students

SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production - managing waste and reducing the waste in landfill through recycling, composting, repurposing and our school swap shop

SDG13 Climate Action - reducing carbon emissions through energy use –solar panels

SDG15 Life on Land - preventing biodiversity loss through our school garden

SDG17 Partnerships for the Goals - working with partners like Green Schools and ISSN to amplify our impact.

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.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network since September 2024 (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 and was awarded our first green flag for litter and waste management in May 2026. In the next academic year, we will begin working towards our second green flag for Energy. Our green school's committee comprises of students, teachers, learning support staff and caretaking staff.
- Our school engages with the ISSN, Education for Sustainability -Climate Literacy Programme, WILDCITY project and Junk Kouture in the area of sustainable development
- Our school has a recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible. Through the actions of the Green School's programme which commenced in September 2024 the amount of recycling and composting carried out has greatly increased. In order to reduce the volume of single-use plastics on the school grounds, a reusable water bottle was given to every student in September 2025.

Our students also have accessed to two filtered water fountains on the ground floor of the school.

- 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 (School Garden, Horticulture classes, Outdoor Education programme)
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity (our school has bee hives, grassland managed for wildlife, pond in process of construction, planters)
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking, and cycling to school (provision of sheltered bike rack & Build a Bike programme)
- Our school engages with local volunteer group-Bloomin Crumlin. The school carried out a tree mapping project with them in 2024. Our school also hosted the launch of their biodiversity plan for Crumlin.
- We participate in local clean ups in the area and along the local canal, allowing our students to recognise the importance of a clean environment to the flora and fauna of a habitat. DCC have provided the school with litter pickers.
- Our School promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards our natural environment. There is a weekly rubbish pick-up, and an extra bin has been provided at the picnic tables outside for the segregation of waste.
- Books and class materials are reused, where possible
- Our School collects batteries and electrical items for recycling through the WEE scheme
- Our IT department have moved most of our ICT procurement to Green ICT
- Our school has a compost area for all garden waste which is managed by the Horticulture department

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.
- Our school engages with the Education for Sustainability- Climate literacy programme and the ISSN Ambassador programme. We hope to include Global Citizenship Education programmes in this area in the near future.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated. Teachers are made aware of suitable strategies to support the student throughout the school cycle.
- All school staff are provided with training in conflict resolution, to support and affect positive student behaviour. Our school has a dedicated Restorative Practice team, and all staff have received training in this area.

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 student council and daily tutor time which facilitates students' ability to input ideas.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills. (All TY students create a mini company where they showcase their products at the school winter fair).
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles. The school had a very successful fundraise this year for our TY musical.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practise in sustainability in mind for example with recycling waste and electronics, composting, food share and lost and found charity shop donation at the end of school year.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy-Our school holds an annual Clothes Swap shop

- Our school encourages the use of technology via Microsoft Teams which reduces paper waste.

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, to do the best they can in their education, and to show care and respect to all members of the school community.
- Our school ethos 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 ESD through:

- Membership of the ISSN
- Training received from the Education for Sustainability Climate Literacy Programme
- Access to the EDS newsletter
- Continuous Professional Development

Student Competence

- Our students' study CSPE for Junior Cycle
- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer-to-peer learning activities via the ISSN Ambassador programme.
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects - Our TY students are responsible for the organising and running of the annual Clothes Swap Shop
- Our school has a Green Schools Committee who are involved in decisions about promoting sustainability and environmental actions in our school
- Our students are encouraged to participate in local community action by carrying out litter picking in the local area.

Goals

Our school will aim to achieve the green Flag for Energy by 2028. This goal aligns with LAOS 2022's Dimension 2: Learning and Teaching, Standard 3.3, which states that schools should "promote sustainable practices and encourage students to become active environmental stewards." By achieving the Energy Flag, we will further demonstrate our commitment to environmental sustainability and provide students with hands-on experience in reducing energy waste and protecting the environment.

To encourage more use of our outdoor green spaces in a cross-curricular approach.

Implementation and review

This Statement will be presented to the Board of Management in September 2026 for ratification at their next meeting (Date TBC). To ensure our school strives to improve it's work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.

Signed ___*Allison Masterson* Chairperson of the BOM

Signed Lesley Byrne Principal

15/09/2026