



Sustainability Policy Statement

Scoil Naomh Teresa

Ballintogher

Co Sligo

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

Scoil Naomh Treasa is a parish school, which is under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. We at Scoil Naomh Treasa are committed to providing a well-balanced education for all children in a caring environment, where excellence and commitment are the desired criteria, within a catholic ethos.

Our Vision: Our school’s vision is to have a sustainable school community where every child will live a full life as a child, enhancing his/her social, spiritual, artistic and academic development who will thrive in a just, inclusive, and environmentally responsible world. Our goal is to empower each student to become compassionate, informed global citizens who actively shape a more equitable and sustainable future, while also enabling them to think clearly, creatively and critically, while giving the children opportunities to appreciate and have respect for their environment.

Our Mission: Our school’s mission is to embed sustainability into every aspect of school life through inclusive, child-centred education that fosters environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and democratic participation. By integrating the UN Sustainable Development Goals — particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) — into our curriculum, operations, and community engagement, we aim to cultivate a culture of care for people and planet. Through innovative teaching practices and a supportive community, we aim to inspire our students to become compassionate leaders who embrace challenges with resilience and empathy.

Our Values: Our school values are deeply rooted in excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect. We are committed to the following values in our pursuit to sustainability:

1. **Voice and Agency in Climate Action** - We empower children to speak up on environmental issues and participate in real-life sustainability decisions — from designing green spaces to leading eco-initiatives — because their ideas and actions can shape a better future.
2. **Well-being Through a Healthy Environment** - We foster a school culture that prioritizes clean air, green spaces, healthy food, and time in nature — recognising that children’s physical and mental well-being is deeply connected to a healthy planet.
3. **Learning Through Nature and Sustainable Practices** - We integrate outdoor learning, gardening, recycling, and nature-based activities into our curriculum, helping children understand ecological systems and the impact of human behaviour on the Earth.
4. **Responsibility and Stewardship** - We encourage children to take age-appropriate responsibility for sustainable practices such as waste sorting, conserving energy, reusing materials, and caring for the school garden, instilling lifelong habits of environmental responsibility.
5. **Creativity for a Sustainable Future** - We support children in designing innovative solutions to real-world challenges — from upcycling art projects to sustainable inventions — fostering creative problem-solving for climate and community resilience.
6. **Empathy for People and the Planet** - We cultivate empathy not just between individuals, but for animals, ecosystems, and future generations, helping children understand their interconnection with the wider world.
7. **Belonging in a Global Community** - We help children see themselves as global citizens, learning about sustainability issues in other parts of the world and building solidarity with children affected by climate change, poverty, or environmental injustice.
8. **Joyful Action for Change** - We make sustainability fun and engaging — through themed days, nature walks, climate games, and eco-celebrations — showing children that making a difference can be both serious and joyful.

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 (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 achieved and been awarded the Litter and Waste, Energy, Travel, Water and Biodiversity flags over the years.
- Our school has a Green School Flag Committee comprising of staff and students who strive to promote sustainability and environmental awareness within the educational community. The Committee aims to inspire, educate and empower the school community to become stewards of the environment. By championing sustainability initiatives and fostering a culture of environmental consciousness, the committee helps to create a greener, more resilient future.
- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD

Schools | Community Energy | SEA<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/>

- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning in our green area and school garden
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact to the environment e.g. recycled paper for printing, black colour printing
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity such as bug hotels, bird feeders, compost area
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. Our school has a bicycle parking area. We take part in Walk to school initiatives such as W.O.W.
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education such as Picker Pals, Biodiversity in Schools, Farming at Sea through organising visits from the ARC

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.

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 e.g. Creative Schools Council, Health and Wellbeing Committee and Student Council

- 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 supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD. We worked with Biodiversity in Schools to design our school garden

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer-to-peer learning activities
- Our school has a Green School Committee, Health and Wellbeing Committee and Creative Schools Council who are involved in decisions about best sustainability practices in our school and community
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects e.g. Ballintogher Tidy Towns

Goals

Our school will aim to:

- Complete Phase one of the School Garden Project by June 2025 and develop it further with planting, sowing and harvesting by June 2026

- Link in with Heritage in Schools, Arc Classroom and other outside agencies to build on students and staff knowledge of Sustainability
- Scoil Naomh Treasa is currently working on the GC Food and Bio theme which is the 10th theme in the programme and the flag will be renewed by June 2026
- Complete the “Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool for Schools” to guide the sustainable journey within our school
- Organise a clothes collection annually
- Erect a school bicycle shelter by June 2026 as part of our Green Schools Work, encouraging cycling/scooting to school
- Solar Panels *installed*.
- Take part in the annual Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 21/5/2025. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

Ratification and Communication:

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 21/5/2025.

The policy has been made aware to school personnel and published on the school website.

Signed: *Ma. [Signature]* (Chairperson of BOM)

Date: 21-05-25

Signed: *Ruth Sweeney* (Principal)

Date: 21/5/25