



Scartleigh National S

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Scartleigh National School

Cairde le chéile ag foghlaim

Sustainable Environment Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy is the result of the collaboration of teachers, Principal, Deputy Principal, the Board of Management, pupils and parents of Scartleigh NS.

Rationale

Scartleigh NS aims to become a sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into many areas of the curriculum, instilling a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment and participating in Green Schools. We will aim to lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

Aims

By introducing this policy, the school hopes:

To become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments

To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. Recycling, energy and water

To develop a responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment

To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling, scooting and walking to school.

To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal life style and participation in collective environmental decision making.

To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, European and Global Communities.

To acquire open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.

Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences the children will acquire skills to help care for our environment immediately and have a long term impact

To understand the actions that people can have on the environment.

Procedures and Guidelines

How to reduce the school's ecological footprint:

Energy

Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school.

Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.

Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school through participation in Green Schools.

Waste

Minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis.

Students and staff to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.

Biodiversity

Utilise our garden area to its full extent and continue to develop it.

Involve community members in maintenance of school garden.

Water

Reduce the water consumption within the school.

Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.

Monitor water usage and report wastage.

Implementation

The school will continuously participate in Green Schools and work towards obtaining Green Flags. Furthermore, every class will participate in regular lessons around the topic of sustainability through SESE, SPHE and other lessons. The whole school community will be involved in the work of the Green Schools Committee through regular updates at assemblies, the school website and on school notice boards.

Energy

Promote a 'switch off and save' rule for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling particularly when leaving the classroom to go the yard and hall.

Students to engage in units of work relating to energy in SESE and other areas.

Members of the Green Schools Committee will act as classroom energy monitors ensuring that all appliances are completely switched off when not being used in an effort to conserve energy.

The school regularly monitors energy bills and looks for ways to reduce our use of electricity.

Waste

Students are consistently reminded to dispose of waste and recycled products in the appropriate manner.

Food waste is taken home.

Paper into recycling bins.

Use recycled paper for printer/photocopier where possible.

Promote the reuse of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

Recycling bins provided in all classrooms, staff rooms and the school office. Waste bins are also provided.

Children and staff are encouraged to dispose of their waste correctly, for example to wash out yoghurt cartons before placing in the recycling bin/bringing them home for recycling.

A compostable waste bin is provided in the staff room. Staff are informed of what to compost during staff meetings.

Biodiversity

Consult school and local community members on ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant).

Involve school community members in planting and maintaining our gardens.

Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens

Improve our outdoor natural environment, by planting native trees

Plant native plants and wild flowers that encourage and support the insect population, such as bees and butterflies

Improve our vegetable garden/glasshouse by planting and harvesting more seasonal vegetables

Use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment

Provide varied living conditions in the school garden (insect hotels, hedges, walls, grassy areas and trees) to offer potential food and shelter to our natural biodiversity

Support our native birds (particularly during the winter months) by providing bird feeders and trees in the school garden.

Water

Remind students and staff regularly of the importance of turning off the tap when water is flowing.

Students to engage in units of work relating to water conservation in SESE and other areas.

Green Schools Committee members to regularly monitor water usage and report wastage.

The school harvests rainwater using a tank next to the bin stores.

Other Initiatives

Awards/Competitions Activities and information campaigns such as the following are currently running within the school:

We have earned and maintained Green School Flags for: Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship – Litter & Waste.

We are currently working as a whole school towards obtaining the Green Flag for Biodiversity-Energy.

Recycling

Recycling Paper Recycling Bins

A recycling bin for paper is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that any waste paper will be recycled.

Litter Bins - General Rubbish

A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e. left over pieces of food, floor dirt, old crayons etc. and this is emptied on a daily basis.

Compost Bins

The teacher's staffroom is also equipped with compost bins in order to set a good example to the younger members of the school and to reinforce the message that everyone is doing his/her part in caring for the environment.

Lunchboxes

It is encouraged that whatever comes in the child's lunchbox goes home in the lunchbox - i.e. a yoghurt pot, a wrapper as it dramatically cuts down on the schools waste.

Pupils are encouraged to use a reusable drinks container daily.

Re-Use

Children are encouraged to take their waste home with them so as to cut down on the volume that the school actually produces.

Staff will keep suitable recyclable items for art materials and Aistear i.e. cardboard rolls, cardboard, paper, tinfoil, recycled bottle tops.

Parents may be asked to send in recyclable materials for art lessons and junk art in Aistear.

Communication with parents

Parents will be texted or sent school information via email and online means instead of sending out individual letters with each child where appropriate. This cuts down greatly on the amount of paper being used by the school.

Mobility

The school community is working on improving mobility. Children are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

School Garden

We have a school garden and glasshouse in our school and it has been set up where children have planted vegetable and flowers throughout the year.

Green Flag

The school has been awarded a Green Flag for each of the following themes: Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship – Litter & Waste.

The school will now begin to focus on the Green Flag for Biodiversity-Energy. It is the aim of the school to continue working on renewing the previous themes while simultaneously working on efforts for the new flag.

Curriculum

The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students. Environmental / Green issues are key elements of both S.E.S.E., S.P.H.E.

The school community will work together to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world-views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living by teaching sustainability. A cross curricular approach will be taken to the teaching of sustainability.

Success Criteria

The school wide implementation of this policy will ensure:

Continuous participation in the Green Schools programme and the aspiration to

be rewarded further Green Schools' flags.

Continuous improvement, development and use of the school garden/glasshouse.

Children will participate in lessons throughout the year on areas of sustainability in the SESE and other areas of the curriculum.

Roles and Responsibility

The following people have particular responsibilities for aspects of this policy:

Teaching staff

SNA's

Parents/guardians

Principal and Deputy Principal

Green Schools Committee

Pupils

Board of Management

Implementation/Ratification and Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on

16/01/2023.

Signed: Thomas Casey
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Denise O'Donoghue
Principal

Date: 16/1/23

Date: 16/1/23

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the BOM

Principal/Secretary of the BOM

Date: _____

Date: _____

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on _____.