



# Sustainability Policy Statement

*Coláiste Bhríde Carnew, Co. Wicklow*

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](http://gov.ie) - [www.gov.ie](http://www.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.

The policy documents our school’s commitment to the ETBI core values of care (for the environment), community (global), respect (for nature and the environment), equality (interdependence) and excellence in education (provision of learning opportunities for our students). It informs our practices and plans on a year-to-year basis.



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement is to outline how our school promotes sustainability and climate action, teaching and learning, school management, student leadership and daily practice.

Sustainability is understood as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to the entire school community, including:

- Students
- Teachers
- SNAs and ancillary staff
- School management
- Board of Management

Parents, guardians and the wider community are encouraged to support and promote the principles outlined in this policy. All school decisions will, where practicable, align with sustainability principles.

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**

Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew strives to create an inclusive, respectful and forward-thinking learning environment where students are empowered to become informed, responsible and active citizens in a sustainable world.

Our mission is to deliver high-quality education that promotes academic excellence, personal development and social responsibility, while fostering respect for people, place and the environment.

Our school's values are deeply rooted in excellence in education, care, equality, community, and respect. We strive to uphold these core principles in all aspects of school life, ensuring that every member of our community feels valued, supported, and respected.



## 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, including Science, Geography, Home Economics, CSPE, Agricultural Science, Climate Action and Sustainable Development and through Transition Year Modules.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network ([www.ISSN.ie](http://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 a well-established part of the Green Schools Programme.
- Our school was awarded its 10<sup>th</sup> Green Flag based on the theme Global Citizenship (Food and Biodiversity) in 2026.
- Our Green Team comprises of staff and students, whose role is to promote sustainability throughout the school environment as well as the local community.
- Our school engages with WWGS and Concern Worldwide in the area of sustainable development.



- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, and single use plastics.
- Our school engages with the Bottles Return Scheme and donates all proceeds collected to local charities chosen by students.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- 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, through ecology trips, hillwalking and litter picking in the community.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning. The school garden and greenhouse provide ample opportunities for students to engage with sustainable practices such as composting, reducing food miles in the form of growing our own food and organic gardening.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity, with vast green spaces, including a 'green' school courtyard, a school garden and a pond.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school.
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education such as Green Schools or any other programmes working in this field.

### **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 Global Citizenship Education programmes such as World Wise Global Schools <https://www.worldwiseschools.ie/>.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.



- All school staff are provided with the training in the area of conflict resolution, in order to support and affect 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 the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school, through the Student Council.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills, through TY Mini-Company.
- 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, through programmes such as ESD CPD, GCE CPD, and engagement with the Take 1 programme.

### **Student Competence**

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects such as the BT Young Scientist Exhibition and SciFest.



- Our school has a Student Council who are involved in decisions within the school and represent student voice.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects.
- Our schools are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community

### Goals

Our school will aim to achieve its 11th Green Flag 2028.

### Implementation and review

To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.

### Policy Development Procedure:

Version number	1
Policy drafted by	Ms Anna Gahan Ms Dayna Lancaster
Approved by Board of Management	25.5.26
Sent to KWETB for verification	
Next review date	MAY 2028

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: *Anna Gahan* (Principal)

Date: *25.5.26*