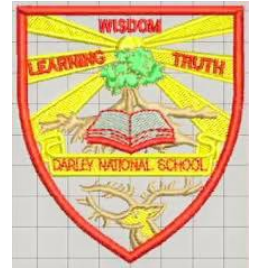


Sustainability Policy Statement

Darley NS



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

Darley NS's Vision, Mission, and Core Values

- Our vision of our school is of a safe and happy place where each child is nurtured and valued in an atmosphere of fairness, tolerance and respect. Our motto of wisdom, learning & truth is at the heart of teaching and learning.
- Our school promotes the holistic development of each child so that he or she may realise his/ her potential, whatever that potential may be.
- We aim to foster the Christian values of respect, honesty, courtesy, responsibility, tolerance and consideration for others.
- We enable each child to learn and develop in a happy, safe, stimulating and mutually respectful environment.
- We cherish and foster positive, co-operative relationships between teachers, staff, pupils, parents and the wider community.
- We value and encourage good parental communication and involvement, based on mutual trust and understanding.
- We aim to be a warm and welcoming place, respectful and accommodating of diversity in race, culture, religion, gender and ability. We aim to promote equality and support pupils with special educational needs.
- Our commitment to sustainability, environmental awareness, and climate action aligns seamlessly with our core values. We believe that by fostering a culture of responsibility and stewardship, we can empower our students to become proactive agents of change in safeguarding our planet for future generations. Through interdisciplinary learning experiences and community partnerships, we integrate environmental education into our curriculum, promoting sustainable practices and encouraging students to explore innovative solutions to global challenges. In doing so, we reinforce our dedication to excellence, care, equality, and respect, while fostering a strong sense of community and collective responsibility towards building a more sustainable and equitable world.

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.
- 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 carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of social sustainability.
- 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 currently registered to take part in the Green Schools Programme.

Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to reduce,

Our Green Schools Committee will serve as the driving force behind fostering sustainability and environmental awareness within educational institutions. Its purpose will be multifaceted, aiming to achieve several key objectives: In essence, the purpose of having a Green Schools Committee will be 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 will help create a greener, more resilient future for current and future generations.

- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD [Schools | Community Energy | SEAI](https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/)<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/>
- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and

energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption. It is our intention to reduce energy consumption by 2030 by 50% of the agreed baseline.

- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive approach to recycling in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school promotes water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, energy. Our hot meals provider, 'The Lunch Bag' has a strict sustainability policy.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- Our school has invested considerably in sustainable and energy saving projects. Eg. Automatic lighting in every room, LED lighting, attic insulation, cavity and internal wall insulation, automatic switch off taps and additional PV panels.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning, ecology trips to our local river, lake & Forest (Bellamont Forest) and great outdoor space.
- Our school promotes and upon completion of a building programme will facilitate biodiversity such as a school garden and sensory garden. This should be completed in late 2027.
- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education such as ECO UNESCO, Picker Pals and Take 1.

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding disability and 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/> or other programmes working in this area.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- All school staff foster and promote wellbeing in the school. A 2025 WSE

inspection highly commended the school's approach to wellbeing for all pupils. *'The support for pupils' wellbeing was of an exceptionally high standard in this inclusive and welcoming school. All staff members were praised for the skilful way in which they managed, supported and motivated their pupils. It was praiseworthy that teachers worked collaboratively using the school self-evaluation (SSE) process to consider how aspects of school life such as recreation breaks could work well for pupils. Purposeful resources and equipment were provided to the pupils during recreational time, which provided them with excellent opportunities to play together, have fun and socialise'.*

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. Our Student Council play a paramount role in deciding upon resources required within the school.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills such as 'Dragons Den'
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles-eg Christmas Jumper Swap.
- 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 such as ESD CPD, GCE CPD, engagement with the Take 1 programme and other providers of CPD programmes working in this area.

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 within our school. Eg Christmas Jumper swap.
- Our school has a Student Council and shortly a Green Team who are/will be involved in decisions regarding the school.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects such as Tidy Towns or other local community organisations working in this area.

Goals

- Our school will aim to achieve our first Green Flag by the end of 2026.
- Our school will liaise with Cootehill Chamber in providing recycling bins in the town and local forest amenity.
- Our school will continue to host clothes recycling collections.
- Our school will extend the Christmas Jumper swap/recycling initiative to include uniform jumpers.
- Our school will develop a school garden and sensory garden upon completion of our new building extension.

Implementation and review

This statement was implemented on 15/12/25. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the statement will be reviewed every 2 years or earlier in line with our building project completion.

Approved and ratified by the Board of Management on:

Chairperson: 

Date: 15th December 2025

Principal:  Date: 15th December 2025