

Coosan N.S Sustainability Policy Statement



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/school-sector-climate-action-mandate)

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 of Coosan N.S

At Coosan National School, our vision is to create a welcoming, inclusive, and child-centred learning environment where every pupil is supported to reach their full potential. Guided by our Catholic ethos, we promote respect, dignity, and care for all, while encouraging pupils to grow into confident, responsible members of society.

Our mission is to provide a high-quality, holistic education rooted in our Catholic ethos and guided by Gospel values such as compassion, justice, and care for creation. We strive to nurture a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where pupils are encouraged to learn, develop, and make positive contributions to their community.

Our core values of respect, kindness, inclusion, responsibility, and community underpin all aspects of school life. We promote positive relationships, pupil wellbeing, and a strong sense of belonging, while encouraging active participation, teamwork, and social responsibility among all members of our school community.

The vision, mission, and values of Coosan National School strongly support our commitment to sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Our emphasis on respect, inclusion, and care for others reflects key principles of equality and global citizenship, while our focus on care for creation aligns with environmental awareness and climate action. As a child-centred and inclusive school, we support pupils in developing the knowledge, skills, and values needed to contribute to a more sustainable future, in line with relevant Sustainable Development Goals such as quality education, responsible consumption, and climate action.

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.

- Our school carries out 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)
 - 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.
 - Our school was awarded our green school's flagS based on the themes
 - 1st Flag → Litter & Waste
 - 2nd Flag → Energy
 - Our Green Schools Committee serves as the driving force behind fostering sustainability and environmental awareness within educational institutions. Its purpose is multifaceted, aiming to achieve several key objectives: In essence, the purpose of having a Green Schools Committee is 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 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
- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption: television in school foyer to display our solar power energy.
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- 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.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning. Our school has a garden where vegetables and flowers are grown in co-operation with parents and community support.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity. We have planters and are developing wildflower areas of growth on the school grounds.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. Our school partakes in Walk on Wednesday's initiative during the Summer

months. The school has a bicycle shed and encourages pupils to cycle to school. The school also participates in Safe cycling programmes where pupils are taught how to cycle safely.

- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme:
<https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- 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.

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 an elected student council who are encouraged to gather the views/survey the pupil population in regards to resource allocation of the garden, health eating and other policies.
- 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 practice in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy, specific project work carried out by Sixth Class pupils

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. [e.g. 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 Project work carried out in sixth class annually. This year with TUS Climate action.
- Our school has a Student Council and Green Team who are involved in decisions about school life

Goals

Our school has opted to select an aim from the Sustainability Self- Assessment Tool for Schools to achieve during the life-time of this statement.

Our school will aim to:

- Develop resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Provide our students with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at local level.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 11/05/26. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

Signed: Fr. Patrick Murphy (Chairperson)

Signed: Orla Fogarty (Principal)

09/07/26

Signed: Patrick Murphy
Chairperson

Date: 9/7/26.

Signed: Orla Fogarty
Principal

Date: 9/7/26.

