

**Sustainability Policy Statement**  
**Kilroe NS/ Scoil Naomh Prionsias.**



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.



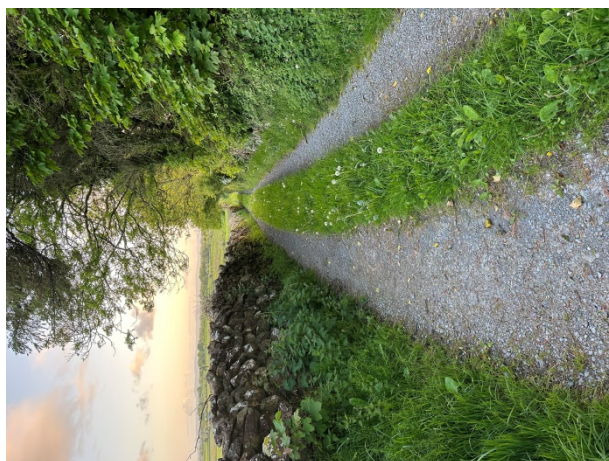
## Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement 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



Our school's **vision** is to create a caring, high quality, learning environment where each child is welcomed, respected, cherished and facilitated in reaching their full potential whatever their background, nationality or faith.

*(SDG 3 Good health and well-being, SDG 4 Quality Education)*

Our school's **mission** is to provide a model of primary education that reflects Ireland in the 21st Century. Killore National School/ Scoil Naomh Prionsias provides a welcome to each child in the community we serve and creates learning opportunities in a setting of diversity and inclusion. Our school caters for the physical, academic, social, emotional and spiritual needs of children within the school day in a supportive and caring environment.

*(SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities.)*

Our schools **values** kindness, respect, inclusion, integrity, gratitude and responsibility. These values extend beyond teaching and learning fostering good relationships, emotional intelligence and a deep connection to nature and care for the environment.

*(SDG 11; Sustainable cities and communities; creating green space in our outdoor learning space/wellbeing area and opening it up to the community during wellbeing days.*

*SDG 13/15; Climate action/Life on land; planting and engaging with Forest School theory to embrace and enhance our school grounds and biodiversity instead of installing a soft play area/astro grass).*

### 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 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 will soon be part of the Green Schools Programme.
- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD

[Schools | Community Energy | SEAIhttps://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.
- Our school engages with Just Forests, ATU Castlebar, SEAI Exploring Our Energy, Grow in Love, Smallworld, Walk Tall, Stay Safe, Heritage in schools and more in the area of sustainable development
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling plan in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has comprehensive plans in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, energy.....
- 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. Posters designed by one of our parents will be placed in our outdoor classroom. Other posters designed by OPW are being placed in the classrooms.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning. Our outdoor classroom reflects this along with our new planting area, apple trees, willow dome and raised beds. We are engaging with Forest School leader Dianora and Heritage in School.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. Our bike safety course run yearly support this along with cycle to school days/sports day.
- 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 e.g. picker pals, incredible edibles, food culture with William, Forest School in School, Green Thursdays, Bird Watching hour etc

### 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/> 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. This has been reflected in our Self School Evaluation (SSE) of PE where we introduced yoga, wheelchair basketball and invested in new PE equipment that encourages inclusivity.
- All school staff will be 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.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills and have had the opportunity to listen to the stories of local small businesses. (Junior Entrepreneur Programme.)
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles eg Cake sale for ISPCA, Christmas jumper day for Simon Community, Rory Best Cycle Day for Daisy Lodge.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with practise in the area of sustainability in mind.

### 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. This is especially evident in our new Community Family and Wellbeing Day in May with special guest Maria Walsh( MEP).
- 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. Summer CPD'S in the area of ESD/Wellbeing are planned. Principal holds a Masters in Wellbeing, Sustainability and Outdoor Education from ATU Castlebar and is remains affiliated with them.

### 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 and are involved in SSE and research projects such as choosing Forest School practices to introduce into the curriculum.
- Our schools are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community promoting wellbeing and care for the environment.

### Goals.



Our School aims to become a green school.

We will engage with SDG 7; Affordable and clean energy and install solar panels.

Our school aims to introduce information signs/posters for ESD in the Outdoor Classroom area. These will highlight pollination, biodiversity projects etc.

Our school aims to engage with the community holding events to encourage ESD and promote wellbeing.

Continue to knit ESD and wellbeing into teaching and learning and encourage and provide CPD for staff.

Introduce water saving measures such as toilet hippo bags and collecting rain water.

### Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on September 2023. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.



### United in Biodiversity

Come now let's sing our song,

Let every note be in tune, every instrument work in perfect harmony.

Let's sing our song for the future now,

Where all system weave as one, let every creature big and small listen to the call.

Let the gentle music trickle into the sea and spread across the land.

Its time now, we must sing together, all as one, cease to divide.

Set aside the judgement, the fear and the blame now, for that will lend no hand,

Let's down the tools and start anew and walk as one, side by side

We are her and she is us, coursing through our veins,

Come now, let's sing the song of the future.

Let's sing to the heartbeat of the drum, the heartbeat of mother earth.

She is calling us now, to work as one, united in biodiversity.