



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://www.gov.ie) - School Sector Climate Action Mandate (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.

The management and teaching staff of St. Anne’s Secondary School Tipperary, in co-operation with parents, are committed to the provision of a broadly-based education to the girls of the region and to achieving a balance between the academic, social, cultural, spiritual and physical components of that education, within the tradition established by the Mercy Sisters and continued by CEIST.

St. Anne’s is guided by the following core values:

1. Promoting Spiritual and Human Development
2. Commitment to excellence and continually improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning
3. Showing Respect for each Individual
4. Creating a sense of Community with a special welcome for those most in need
5. Being Just and Responsible in our Relationships.

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.

St. Anne's School
Sustainability Statement

- 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)
- 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 has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to maintain and expand our green school's contribution to the local, national and international community. This includes sustainability and will occur through both education and action. We have a recycling programme for school waste. We have a developing school curriculum including Green Schools, Horticulture, Sustainability, as well as a diverse cross-curricular curriculum to support these programmes.

- Our school engages with Junkture and CPD days for staff around sustainable development.
- Our school engages with the Take 1 Programme and its resources 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.

St. Anne's School
Sustainability Statement

- Our school has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, and minimal energy consumption.

Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment. e.g. water fountains and bottle refilling stations for staff and pupils and the reuse and recycling of class materials when and where possible.

- 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.
- Science, Geography and TY / LCA subjects and modules include outdoor activities and excursions to local and national locations whenever feasible
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity. We have wildlife areas and specific areas within the schools site boundary.

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.
- All school staff are provided with the training around conflict resolution, 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. The St. Anne's Student Council and Green Schools classes are involved with and facilitate litter pick days and promote environmentally friendly actions throughout the school year
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills. These include TY Mini-Company, LCA programmes and TY action days and activities throughout the year. Enterprise days, school markets and activities are facilitated throughout the school year
- 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 around 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 around ESD. e.g. ESD CPD, GCE CPD, engagement with the Take 1 programme and other providers of CPD programmes working in this area. Staff attend CPD days and training in this area of ESD when possible.
- The personal knowledge and experience of staff, at both personal and professional levels is also a valuable resource.

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 e.g. BTYSE, YEA, or other such initiatives – including GS initiatives, Junkature entries and litter pick days throughout the academic year.
- Our school has a Student Council/ Sustainability Committee/ Green Team who are involved in decisions about successes and future plans for Comeragh College leading into the future of ESD. Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects e.g. Tidy Towns Comhairle nan Og, Lions Club initiatives & other local community organisations working in this area.
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community.

Goals

- Our school will minimise waste in all areas as much as possible.
- Our school will increase awareness of biodiversity.

Implementation and review

To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every year. We will run a programme of self-audit within the school to gauge our progress and to re-assess our aims and goals where needed.