



CASTLETROY COLLEGE



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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://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 of the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, and in keeping with the principles and themes of ESD to 2030, and is under review by the Board of Management

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

School Vision Statement:

"Our school is a community rooted in a clean, safe, healthy, and happy environment where everyone can thrive. Through our commitment to sustainability, we embrace the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), empowering all to contribute to a greener, brighter future."

Green-Schools Motto: *"Tús maith agus glass leath na hoibre"* – A good green start is half the work.

Our School motto - ‘UT SINT UNUM’ - That they may be one SDG17

Alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Each aspect of your vision can be aligned with specific SDGs, such as:

1. **Clean environment:** SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).
2. **Safe environment:** SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
3. **Healthy environment:** SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 13 (Climate Action).
4. **Happy environment:** SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

This vision and motto can inspire our students, teachers, and community to work together to make tangible contributions to sustainability while creating a thriving and joyful school environment.

Our values are entwined and closely affiliated with the 5 pillars of the LCETB ethos, and the 17 international sustainability goals.

Our school's mission

Our mission In Castletroy College is the holistic education of the individual, enabling students to become responsible, caring members of society as well as encouraging them to reach their full potential. In our daily lives we value the principles of justice and mutual respect embracing all denominations and cultures.

We endeavour to nurture and maintain a school community which involves the partnership of staff, students, parents, trustees and the local community. In the pursuit of this ideal we provide a broad and balanced range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences for all students.

The mission of the College is the education of the individual as a whole person. In the pursuit of this ideal, the College provides a broadly based curriculum for all pupils of the community, allowing each pupil to attain the highest level of academic and skill-based attainment consonant with their interests, abilities and talents. This ideal can only be realised by the College by building on foundations which have already been laid in the home and being assisted at all times by the parents/guardians of the pupil. Our vision is that education is a joint effort between school, home and community.

The aims of the College are:

- To be a centre of academic and educational excellence
- To provide a broad based education for pupils of the community
- To provide conditions which will foster the fullest development of each pupil as an individual and as a member of society
- To teach moral values, attitudes and behaviour patterns and thus engender an attitude of respect towards oneself, others and the environment.
- To enable pupils to learn, preserve and respect their own religious beliefs and worship within their faith tradition.
- To engender a spirit of ecumenism and dialogue, encouraging pupils to grow in their understanding of religious traditions other than their own.
- To help pupils to embrace change, search for truth and develop a critical faculty.

- To engender in each pupil a sense of self esteem and an appreciation of their own dignity.
- To encourage in pupils a respect for the rights and opinions of others, irrespective of their race, sex, social background or religious beliefs.
- To facilitate pupils to have an understanding of Irish heritage and culture and Ireland's role within the European and world community.
- To impress upon pupils the need to respect personal, school and community property.
- To promote a spirit of self-discipline and integrity
- To encourage an awareness of equality and a spirit of care and toleration.
- To encourage pupils, parents and staff, to make a positive contribution to the shaping of the College, its image and its role in the community.

In order that the College may fulfil its mission and attain its aims, it is essential that all involved with the College community adhere to the code of behaviour and discipline as drawn up and reviewed by the Board of Management.



Our schools values are based on our vision and on our mission statement ie quality education, kindness, family, friends & our school community, wellbeing, care of the earth, air quality, health, awareness of climate change in a school that is equality based, child-centred, democratically run, where we endeavour to link all activities to the relevant SDGs

School Mission and Values

Our school's mission and values are built on a foundation of **equality, child-centered education**, and **democratic governance**, in alignment with the principles of **sustainability, environmental awareness**, and **climate action**. Through these, we aim to foster a healthy, inclusive, and eco-conscious community where every individual can thrive.

Our core values include:

1. **Quality Education**

SDG 4 (Quality Education)

We are committed to providing inclusive and equitable education, where every student is empowered with the knowledge and skills to contribute to a sustainable world. Our curriculum integrates environmental education and climate literacy to foster responsible global citizens.

2. **Kindness, Family, Friends & School Community**

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)

We cultivate a culture of kindness and cooperation, ensuring that our school community is united in its mission to support one another. Building a strong sense of community is central to creating a space where everyone feels safe, valued, and included.

3. Wellbeing

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)

The physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our students, staff, and community is a priority. We aim to foster a supportive environment that promotes overall health, recognizing that well-being is intrinsically linked to both educational outcomes and environmental health.

4. Care for the Earth

SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

We promote a deep sense of responsibility toward protecting our natural environment. Through active participation in climate action and environmental stewardship, we encourage students to take meaningful steps in reducing their ecological footprint and caring for our planet.

5. Air Quality and Health

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

The air we breathe impacts our health and well-being. We educate students on the importance of maintaining air quality through sustainable practices and advocate for climate-friendly policies that reduce air pollution and protect community health.

6. Climate Change

SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Our school is committed to addressing climate change through education and action. We work to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and equip students with the knowledge and tools they need to be agents of change in their communities, both locally and globally.

Linking Vision, Mission, and Values to SDGs:

Vision:

Our school envisions a clean, safe, healthy, and happy environment where all students and staff can thrive. We aim to embed the 17 SDGs into our school's fabric, guiding our efforts toward sustainability and environmental stewardship. We believe that creating a future-ready, eco-conscious generation is crucial to addressing global challenges like climate change and environmental degradation.

Mission:

Our mission is to deliver quality education that not only equips students with academic knowledge but also instills in them a profound understanding of sustainability. Through a child-centered approach, we strive to nurture thoughtful and compassionate individuals who are committed to social equality, environmental conservation, and democratic engagement, which links with our **Our School motto - 'UT SINT UNUM' - That they may be one** SDG17

Values:

Rooted in equality and democracy, our values support the idea that all members of our school community are vital contributors to the sustainability movement. We are driven by respect for the environment, kindness to one another, and a commitment to making the world a better place through climate action and environmental care.

We are committed to sustainability and environmental awareness while staying true to our child-centered, equality-based, and democratically-run principles.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school is working towards 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 we are applying a coordinated approach in our school.
- Opportunities are being identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- Our school policies are in the process of being aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- We are working towards having resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school has started to carry out self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development. This process will be embedded in our annual whole school review
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our school was awarded Fairtrade status by Fairtrade Ireland in May 2023.
- 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/>
- Castletroy College featured in the tenth issue of the ESD newsletter
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/Christmas+market+ESD+NESLETTER/FMfcgzGrcrvggxzVrvpwjBFRXbgnWmpk>
- We are working towards furthering Cross curricular links for example CSPE - showing our Biodiversity slides in all classes. RE classes being shown GS programme in all classes - SDG resources and activities shared in our Google doc survey of sustainability in all areas of our school and for lifelong learning
- All TY students participate in The Big idea Programme. Students work on co-created projects that are important to them to create solutions to challenges closely aligned to the UN SDGs. Castletroy College were the overall winners of The Cost of Living/Hidden

Poverty challenge at The Big Idea Showcase 2024.

<https://exhibition.thebigidea.ie/archives/projects/the-change-agents>

- SDG Week - TY Global Citizen Education students work with Junior Cycle Religious Education class groups around SDG awareness- SDG themed presentations, Kahoot quizzes and playing the United Nations SDG board game - <https://go-goals.org/>
- WorldWide Global Schools - Our school participates in and engages with WWGS. Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary settings. WWGS awarded Castletroy College a Diplomatic Passport Award (Silver) and a Student Capacity Award for established good quality Global Citizenship Education. The Global Passport Award is a Global Citizenship Education (GCE) quality mark, which offers schools a framework to integrate GCE into their teaching and learning.

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 motto 'Tús maith agus glas, leath na hoibre - A good green start is half the work

[Our Green-School's Policy](#)

"Our school was awarded a Green Flag award in 2024", It was the first Secondary school in County Limerick to be awarded a Green flag in 2002

"Our school is currently working towards achieving a Green Flag award in 2026 for Biodiversity."

Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to create awareness of the instructed theme for example ,Travel and to work towards achieving the aims of that theme throughout the following two years to create awareness and positive change with the help of the school community "

Members' roles

We encourage our students to take on leadership roles i.e. Chairperson, timekeeper and secretary, along with the co-ordinator of a team initiative. These roles are optional and are rotated , to give all students an opportunity to experience the different roles.

Also within this time is also important that the students themselves learn the skills of, coordinating events, speaking in public (where comfortable) and with the help of the GS Staff members linking with the sources from supporting agencies eg Lk CoCo, WWGS, ISSN, SEAI, Go Green routes, UL, involvement with our An Taisce Travel officer for the Walkability Audit - Cycleability Audit & Traffic Survey

Additional roles

We also have encouraged our members to take on further leadership roles eg

1. leaders for the lunchtime battery collection
2. Intercom announcements by the students re PR of Green Events
3. Classroom visits promoting our Green initiatives
4. Liaising with staff eg re surveys and competition prizes
5. Student presentations to individual classes, and for a local Primary school in 2024 = Globe program
6. Coordination and leading the TLC (Team Limerick Clean up) initiative each year
7. Liaising with other Green Schools via school visits around the City and County
8. Attending and contributing to online seminars - eg Globe and presenting to other Schools online
9. CGE class captains promote the SDGs in JC RE via SDG presentations, UN Go Goals board game and SDG themed kahoot quizzes. TY GCE students participate in Fairtrade Limerick activities for Fairtrade Fortnight.
10. Current GS student leaders to promote GS and SDGs to classes

Themes followed -

Litter and waste - promotion via our school intercom and GS noticeboards regarding correct bin use.

Registration each year with TLC = Team Limerick Clean up, where staff volunteer to take out a class of volunteers to do a clean up in our school/grounds.

Promotion of our new recycling bin in our School staffroom via email and signage

Energy

Promotion of lights off in rooms that are not being used = sensory lights were installed in all rooms & offices

Water

Water conservation- push taps in all bathrooms. Water stations installed in the school to refill reusable water bottles thousands of water bottles being saved by using our refillable water stations of which there are four on our school grounds

Travel /Air Quality

Globe Programme & GS Team

Promotion of SDGs - Part of an Assistant Principal's post now in our school Coordinator of Sustainability and Green-Schools

Promotion of SDG week

WWGS programme

Emining Programme in 2nd yr Science

General recycling plan in our school

1. Promotion of battery recycling - with competitions to raise awareness
2. Promotion of ink cartridge recycling with Datapac - free collection each term of photocopier ink cartridges
3. Promotion of reuse and recycling of paper, plastic bottles with communication and promotion via our GS noticeboard, Google classroom, intercom , the platform X and emails
 - Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and we offer staff information on teacher CPD [Schools | Community Energy | SEAI](https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/)<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/>
 - Our school has engaged with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption. Where possible, the school indicates their reduction in energy use and any relevant energy reduction targets.
 - Our school engages with ESCI, ISSN, LKCOCO, UL , TLC , ETBI and WWGS in the area of sustainable development
 - Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling procedures in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible ie
 - Paper, water, batteries, inkcartridges,
 - Our school reviews our procedures in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics and energy
 - Our school is working towards resources being procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment for example recycled paper for printing. This is an area we will research further as the quality of the paper in recent times, caused a problem with our then photocopiers
 - Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places e.g. GS Notice boards, School Tv's, Twitter, Intercom messages, Google classrooms, classrooms. Rm 26 - GCE, SDG WWGS notice boards „within and outside the classroom for example outdoor signs in our Biodiversity garden.
 - Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment for example, Classes in Science, Horticulture, Religion, Geography, Art and Design, all our subjects with a practical component.
 - Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning for example our school has a school biodiversity garden, a polytunnel, no mow May procedures , meditation & mindfulness, planning for our local Greenway, access to our local Greenway island students are invited to participate in TLC- Team Limerick Cleanup.

- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity, for example a bug hotel, planters, Biodiversity garden, Weather station area, Horticulture classes in TY for example Horticulture, organic gardening and use of compost and garden waste. Working with 'An Choill beag' and our local Gaelscoil to create 'A small forest' on our local Greenway - 2022- 2023. Our GS team are now working on achieving their next Green flag for Biodiversity in 2026
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school for example working with An Taisce and our local travel officer for our GS Travel flag, which was awarded in 2024 our school partakes in the Walk to School Week eg 2023 & 2024, promotes cycling and was awarded a covered bicycle shed by An Taisce, Green-Schools
- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/> for our Travel flag in collaboration with An Taisce/GS
- Our school engaged with UL and our local community in the planning and creation of our local Green-way
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education e.g. TLC, TY programme, giving back to the community
- LEAF workshop [Leaf Ireland](#) The aim of this is to encourage greater awareness of our outdoor environment for staff and students. Talks with staff with ideas about taking students outside to the natural world and its links to the curriculum between
- Our school is registered with [ETBI](#) and is using its online resources as well as taking up the opportunity for training for the [Take 1 programme](#)

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity - SPHE curriculum, Stand up Week
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at the local level - TY Giving back to the community week
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community eg CSPE, GCE, Economics, Student Council, RE curriculum, Spanish, Home EC, Economics, LCVP & GS
- 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, with thanks to the presentations and work done by our AEN Dept.,
- All members of our Pastoral care teams are provided with the training in the area of restorative practice,, in order to support and affect positive student behaviour and outcomes.

- WEE day for the school - sustainability/ E- mining in Science classes & community , E-mining and GS teams
- Green - Schools award for the Globe project- Irish and International awards - Air quality and links with our Monaleen school one of our local NS's
- Student involvement in the 'Concern' debates - eg on the topic of 'Poverty and Social justice'
- LCVP & Business studies in conjunction with RE- food hampers for those in need eg Homeless charities & Redemptorist food appeal
- Green-School's - Globe project on Air quality- Irish and International presentation online and award for Social community links with a local NS

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 for example Student council involvement, Green-Schools student leaders , GCE captains , Student prefects
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills for example TY Mini-Company and in LCVP
- 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 - recent retrofit for energy saving and the proposal for solar panels for our school building.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy for example Home EC, Economics, GCE, RE, LCVP and in subjects with a practical component

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos i.e our combined mission , values and vision and our school motto '**UT SINT UNUM**' - **That they may be one SDG17** - 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 for example our School show, TY giving back to the community, Green-Schools team involvement with our local community in the planning of our local Greenway,
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community. eg The GLOBE Europe Eurasia Air Quality conference - students participated in an international conference where we got to share our project with other students around the world and we got to listen to other students

about their excellent projects. GS students will represent Ireland in an online air quality conference .

Teacher Competence

- Our Teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD. for example ECSI workshops, LK CoCo workshops , GS workshops, WWGS workshops, ETBI - Take1 Programme training - Chaplain- Care of the earth workshop with the Limerick Diocese.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities SDG week with our GCE Captains and First years
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action oriented projects for example BTYSE, Green-Schools, GCE, WWGS, , WEE day -E-mining in second year science which is linked to our WEE day , Young Reporters for the Environment, Chaplaincy team, and GS team and class groups involved in TLC
- One Good idea - No Poverty
- LC & TY Economics - Strand 1.3 focuses on economic, social & environmental sustainability .Young Economist of the Year - enter economics project based on sustainability
- Leaving certificate in Spanish classes, engage with the topic of the environment and global issues and there is currently a roleplay on the oral course called “El Medioambiente” (The Environment) which touches on the topics of recycling and how to reduce your waste.
- Our school has a Student Council with great competencies, for example participation in Stand-Up week and Mental Health week.
Creation of an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for all students during meetings.
Campaigns to raise awareness of human rights and animal rights and on healthy drinks.
Implemented a new traffic management system for student safety in the front car park of our school.
Involvement/consultation in the creation of quiet spaces such as the sensory room.
Cooperation in the design of school policies eg. Guidance Counselling, Healthy Eating, School trips.
Involvement in the set-up of a healthy food cafe and the banning of vending machines.
Design of surveys on issues such as uniform and canteen food.
Linking in with local and national youth bodies who voice concerns, opinions and issues concerning young people(ISSU and Comhairle na nOg).
Relaying discussions and concerns around daily life in school such as exam timetables, rules and facilities.
- Our School Prefects - are involved in mentoring roles for First Year students on their induction day and first weeks of term.
Organisation of the school graduation ceremony.
Representative role for school events.
- English - Transition Year modules on the diversity of language and its links to the world of nature and biodiversity in the study of nature writers like Robert McFarlane and

Manchan Magan.

Classroom discussion of cultural contexts in literature allowing for thoughts on inclusivity, empathy and tolerance

Creative writing modules and the study of folklore and myth.

Etymology modules creating links between different languages and cultures and allowing students to understand the power of their name and their favourite words.

Lots of images on notice boards to promote a stimulating environment and an interesting environment.

- Gaeilge -TY module based on climate change and global warming. Students engage with News extracts through snastv.ie while developing language skills
- Our Sustainability Committee is involved in creating our sustainability policy and is working towards creating more awareness of and embedding Sustainability, SDGs and its four pillars in our school community and for lifelong learning
- Our GS Team are involved in decisions about, school recycling, transport routes, litter and waste and TLC ,
- Our schools are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community -TY giving back week, TLC, The Big idea.

Goals

Our school is working towards the WWGS Gold Passport Award, the Green-Flag for Biodiversity in 2026, further education and awareness in our School Community of Sustainability , continuing the Globe programme in GS, Continuing the 'An Choill project' with our horticulture class and our local Gaelscoil on our Green-way. to also maintain the previous achievements in Litter and waste, energy and travel. Working towards a high level of awareness and knowledge in all subject areas, all areas of work, our offices and our school hub for lifelong learning.

Implementation and review

This Policy was ratified by the B.O.M., was ratified on 23/09/2024.

To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every year, with the growing initiatives and ESD proposed this year. this will help us all to stay aligned with the pending deadline of 2030 to reach the 17 SDGs and creating the greater understanding of the four pillars of sustainability

