



St. Paul's SNS Sustainability Policy

Signed: A. Gally Principal
Signed: Rev. John Cullen Chairperson of BoM
Date: 9th December 2025

St. Paul's Senior National School 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: 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 of 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 St. Paul’s SNS 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 & Values

Our 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. St. Paul’s SNS 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 school 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.

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.

We take into account the different backgrounds, experiences, interests and strengths that influence the way in which children learn when we plan our approaches to 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 engages with the SEAI Energy in Education resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption
- Our school engages with Drogheda Men's Shed (sustain), Louth Volunteer Centre, Rathmullen House, SEAI Exploring Our Energy, Grow in Love, Walk Tall, Stay Safe 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 environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places. We have a display board on Sustainability in the main downstairs school corridor.
- 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 sensory 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 runs yearly along with cycle to school days/sports day.

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 including JAI.
- 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/Suaimhneas, and invested in new PE equipment that encourages inclusivity.
- All school staff have been provided with 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 including our school's fund-raising activities which reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles eg. Christmas jumper day for St. Vincent de Paul, Carol Singing for Alzheimer's Association
- 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 e.g. employment of 31 community members in our breakfast club as part of a C.E scheme.
- 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.
- Our gardening/horticulture teacher, Ron Barrow, is qualified from the University of York and works in the school garden every Tuesday. He is always available for us to consult with about a wide variety of sustainability issues, including biodiversity, which he actively encourages and teaches our students about. Our staff members who are beginning work on Educational Sustainability are consulting with him this school year and will continue to do so.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities.
- 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 has achieved green school status on numerous occasions in the past.

- 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 by holding events to encourage ESD and promote wellbeing.
- We will introduce ESD and wellbeing into teaching and learning and encourage and provide CPD for staff.
- In November 2025, we were awarded an ESD grant to be used to promote an area of sustainability in our school. We have a group of staff members who will be implementing the action plan from January - May 2026 and will display the results on the Sustainability board. The area being targeted is a courtyard in the centre of our school building. We have included a sensory garden and an area for outdoor learning, with emphasis on education of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable living.

Implementation and Review

This Statement was created in December 2025 and implemented in January 2026. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.