



Coláiste Thulach Sheasta

Sustainability Policy Statement 2024



Tipperary
ETB

Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary Education & Training Board

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Introduction

Coláiste Thulach Sheasta, Newport College is a post primary Community College under the patronage of the Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB). We are a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by five core values: excellence, care, equality, community and respect.

As an ETB Community College, we give equal opportunities to all students in the community we serve, and we strive to provide high quality education through respectful, positive, supportive and responsive learning environments and respect.

In all aspects of school life all members of our school community are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

We value:

Excellence: Excellence includes excellence in education, training, and support. It is underpinned by the core values of care, respect, community, and equality. Excellence encompasses outcomes, experiences, and expectations of people involved.

Care: Care is about the welfare, wellbeing, and safety of all who are involved in education and training. It is exemplified in meaningful relationships, connectedness, and empathy, alongside support and solidarity.

Equality: Equality is about treating everyone equally and recognising and celebrating the diversity of those involved in education, training, and youth work. It is exemplified in targeting resources on those who have need and prioritising a culture of inclusion.

Community: Community encompasses learners, their families, staff, and the local communities in which our services are based. It is about having shared vision, values and purpose, a sense of belonging, and a voice that is listened to. It is exemplified in productive collaboration, positive contributions, and effective communication amongst all stakeholders.

Respect: Respect is about upholding the dignity, rights, and recognition of the identity and background of all those involved in education, training, and youth work. It is exemplified in relationships between all stakeholders, and decision-making that impacts positively on the rights, feelings, and aspirations of the diversity of people.

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)

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

Our school’s vision is where sustainability permeates every aspect of our community, where our actions today create a thriving environment for generations to come. Our commitment to sustainability is rooted in the belief that we are stewards of the Earth, responsible for preserving its resources and fostering a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature.

Our school’s mission is to cultivate a culture of sustainability that empowers our community to become stewards of the environment, champions of social responsibility, and advocates for economic resilience. Grounded in our core values of integrity, innovation, and inclusivity, we are committed to integrating sustainable practices into every aspect of our educational experience.

At Newport College, sustainability isn't just a concept; it's a set of deeply ingrained values that guide everything we do. Rooted in a commitment to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic resilience, our sustainability values shape the way we teach, learn, and interact with our surroundings. These values serve as the foundation for a holistic approach to education that empowers students to become compassionate and environmentally conscious global citizens.

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 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)
- The co-ordinator keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter and shares relevant information with the head of subject departments to distribute to subject teachers <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.

The Green Schools programme has been active since 2006 in Newport College, coordinated by Mrs Karen Burke and Ms. Kealy Power. During this time, we have achieved 6 Green Flag awards: **Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship Litter & Waste.**

- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum-linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD for Transition Year GCE Module.
[Schools | Community Energy | SEAI](https://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 to monitor and report energy consumption. This is conducted with the sustainability officer and the principal annually since 2024.
- Our school engages with Global Citizenship Education through the World Wise Global Schools in the area of sustainable development
- Our school is working on a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy to highlight the current procedures that are in place for using recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has comprehensive procedures in place regarding water conservation, waste, food waste, single-use plastics, and energy and are working on a policy to highlight same.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment. e.g. recycled paper for printing
- 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 e.g. we have school garden which is home to a polytunnel where we grow our own vegetables.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity e.g. we are currently working on a bug hotel and planters as part of our ESD Green Space.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. e.g. our school participates in initiatives such as 'Park n Stride'
- 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. ECO UNESCO, Picker Pals, Take1, WWGS or any other programmes working in this field.

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.
- School staff have been 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. e.g. student council involvement
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills. E.g. TY Mini Company
- 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 in the area of 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 in the area of ESD. e.g. ESD CPD, GCE CPD, engagement with the Take1 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 e.g. BTYSE, YEA, or other such initiatives.
- Our school has a Student Council/Green Schools Team who are involved in decisions about sustainability practices and procedures in our school. We are currently working to set up a Green Team for the school year 2024/2025.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects e.g. Tidy Towns or 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 aim to achieve a Green Flag number 7 for Energy by 2025. Students are currently working on this maintenance theme; it gives schools the chance to revise the Energy theme while looking at issues surrounding energy on a global scale. A global link to the energy theme is Climate Change, the most serious environmental problem of our time and is intrinsically linked to our energy use.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 29/05/2024 To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.