

Sustainability Policy Statement

Fedamore CNS

Fedamore Community National School is a co-educational, multi denominational school which is underpinned by the core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.

In Fedamore CNS we are committed to equipping our pupils with knowledge about environmental, social and economic issues related to sustainable development.

We aim to foster a sense of responsibility, empathy and a commitment to sustainable practices. We encourage our pupils to take action on sustainability issues both withing and outside the school.

In addition to being guided by our core values we are also guided by the principles of:

- Equality and inclusion- We ensure that all pupils have access to high quality ESD regardless of their background or level of need.
- Interdisciplinary approach- We integrate ESD principles across all subject and learning areas.
- Life Long Learning- We recognise the importance of ongoing learning and development in relation to sustainability.
- Community engagement- We endeavour to collaborate with local communities to address sustainability challenges.
- Student centred learning- We empower our pupils to take ownership of their learning and become agents of change. are guided by

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 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/gov/ie-2020-06-01-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 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 to cultivate a love of learning, promote critical thinking and develop responsible, compassionate and environmentally aware citizens who are prepared to contribute positively to society.

Our school's mission is dedicated to providing a high quality, multi denominational, and inclusive education that empowers all children to reach their full potential. We are committed to fostering a vibrant where each child feels valued, respected and supported regardless of their background, beliefs or abilities. We are committed to doing our part to teach and put into action the UN's sustainable development goals.

Our schools values are: Care, Respect, Equality, Community and Excellence in Education. These core values are lived out by us within our school each day. They are also extended to our wider school and community environment. Care and respect towards all aspects of the natural world and wider local natural community is promoted and excellence in outdoor learning and education for sustainable development is something we are actively striving towards from the very beginning of our new school.

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)
- 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 European Network of Blue Schools .
- 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 | SEAI](https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/)<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/>
- Our school will engage with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption. We will have solar panels installed in the summer of 2025 and we will be engaging in energy monitoring from September 2025.
- Our school engages with the Marine Institute's Explorers programme in the area of sustainable development. Our school has also taken part in the Heritage Keepers, Young European Heritage Makers and Heritage in

schools initiatives. Our learning focus on our local heritage is closely linked to principles of ESD.

- Our new school is currently developing a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy. We use recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- Our school is in the process of displaying 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- our school has a native woodland, heritage orchard, willow structures in place and we are currently developing a community garden.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity- we are engaging with an ecologist to develop an action plan for biodiversity for the school and local community. We aim to add to our bug hotels, planters and wildflower meadow with the addition of bat boxes, bird boxes, native hedgerows and biodiversity surveys and talks.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school.
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education- explorers marine education, connection with local community climate action officer, Blue schools network, green school, forest school, heritage initiatives previously detailed.

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 aims to expand on the initiatives we currently engage in by engaging with Global Citizenship Education programmes such as World Wise Global Schools <https://www.worldwiseschools.ie/> in the second year of our school.
- 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 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 will be provided with opportunities to learn small business skills. [e.g. Junior entrepreneurship in year 2]
- 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.
- 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. Our principal is actively engaging in research in the area of outdoor learning in the context of primary education and other staff are encouraged to engage in relevant CPD in ESD as and when required.

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. LCETB Make a Switch competition]
- All our pupils are involved in decisions about ESD, climate action, educational programmes and development of outdoor learning spaces.

- 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 engage with the Green Schools Programme in the school year 26/27.
- Our school also aims to nurture community links and develop a community garden programme of work where both the young and old in our local community can learn both together and from one another.
- Our school aims to develop a long term plan of outdoor learning activities which are closely aligned to our new primary curriculum objectives across all class levels.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented in April 2026. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed annually.

Signed_____

Chairperson BOM

Signed_____

Principal