

SACNS SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Scoil Aoife Community National School

Sustainability Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy is the result of the collaboration of the staff together with the Board of Management.

Rationale

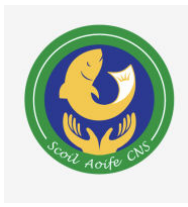
Scoil Aoife aims to become a sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practices in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into many areas of the curriculum, instilling a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment and participating in Green Schools initiatives.

We aim to lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage and by developing the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

Aims

By introducing this policy, the school hopes to:

- Become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments.
- Develop an understanding of conservation, including recycling, energy and water conservation.
- Develop responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment.
- Promote alternative methods of transport to and from school such as cycling, scooting and walking.
- Foster a sense of responsibility for the long-term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal lifestyle choices and participation in collective environmental decision-making.
- Enable children to live as informed and caring members of local, national, European and global communities.
- Acquire open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.



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- Ensure that through explanation, investigation and hands-on experiences, children acquire skills to help care for the environment immediately and have a long-term impact.
- Understand the actions that people can have on the environment.

Procedures and Guidelines

Reducing the School's Ecological Footprint

Energy

The school will reduce energy consumption within the school and use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible. Students will be included in the process of developing and maintaining an energy-efficient school through participation in Green Schools initiatives.

Waste

The school will minimise rubbish and recycle waste throughout the school as much as possible on a daily basis. Students will take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish appropriately.

Biodiversity

The school will utilise the garden area to its full extent and continue to develop it. Community members will be involved in the maintenance of the school garden.

Water

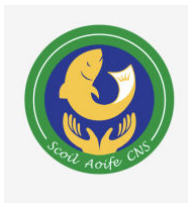
The school will reduce water consumption and use resources and equipment efficiently. Water butts will be used to collect rainwater.

Implementation

Scoil Aoife CNS will continuously participate in Green Schools and work towards obtaining Green Flags. The whole school community will be involved in the work of the Green Schools Committee through regular updates at assemblies, green school committee meetings and on school notice boards.

Energy

- Students will engage in units of work relating to energy in SESE.



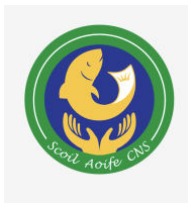
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Waste

- Students are consistently reminded to dispose of waste and recycled products appropriately.
- Food waste is disposed of daily and transferred to the correct bin.
- Paper is placed in recycling bins.
- Recycled paper will be used for printing and photocopying where possible.
- The reuse of paper in classrooms, the staffroom and the office is promoted.
- Recycling bins are provided in all classrooms, staffrooms and the school office.
- Waste bins with black bags are also provided.
- Children and staff are encouraged to dispose of waste correctly, for example by washing yoghurt cartons before placing them in recycling bins.
- A compostable waste bin is provided, and staff are informed about composting procedures during staff meetings.
- Waste from this bin is placed in the compost bin, which produces compost for the school garden.

Biodiversity

- Consult local community members on ways to improve the garden, including where and what to plant.
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining the gardens.
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of the gardens.
- Plant native plants and wildflowers that encourage and support insect populations such as bees and butterflies.
- Improve the vegetable garden by planting and harvesting more seasonal vegetables.
- Use natural materials that reduce environmental impact.
- Provide varied living conditions in the school garden, including insect hotels, hedges, walls, grassy areas and trees, to offer food and shelter for biodiversity.
- Support native birds, particularly during the winter months, by providing bird feeders and trees in the school garden.



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Water

- Regularly remind students and staff of the importance of turning off taps when water is flowing.
- Students will engage in units of work relating to water conservation in SESE.
- Monitor water usage and report wastage.

Other Initiatives, Awards, Competitions and Activities

The following initiatives and information campaigns are currently running within the school.

The school is currently working towards obtaining its 2nd Green Flag for Water conservation.

Recycling Bins

A recycling bin for paper is placed in the staffroom, office and each classroom to ensure that waste paper is recycled.

Shredded Paper Bins

Shredded paper from offices are collected and used for the school wormery.

Litter Bins

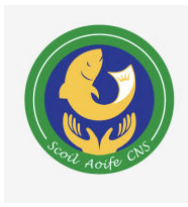
General rubbish bins are placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste such as leftover food, floor dirt and old crayons. These bins are emptied daily.

Lunchboxes

Children are encouraged to bring home all items that come in their lunchboxes, including yoghurt pots and wrappers, as this greatly reduces school waste. Pupils are also encouraged to use reusable drinks containers daily.

Reuse

Children are encouraged to take their waste home to reduce the volume of waste produced by the school. Staff retain recyclable items for use in art and Aistear activities, including cardboard rolls, cardboard, paper, tinfoil and bottle tops. Parents are encouraged to send recyclable materials into school for junk art activities.



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Aladdin is used to keep parents informed of school events and activities, significantly reducing the amount of paper used by the school.

Uniform Drive

The Parent- Teacher Association organises clothing drives to recycle and reuse school uniforms.

School Garden

Children plant and harvest vegetables and flowers throughout the year.

Green Flag

The school has been awarded one Green Flag. It is the aim of the school to continue renewing previous themes while simultaneously working towards the Water flag for next year.

Curriculum

The school views environmental issues as fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture respect for the environment in students. Environmental and Green issues are key elements of both SESE and SPHE.

The school community will work together to develop the knowledge, skills, values and worldviews necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living through the teaching of sustainability. A cross-curricular approach will be taken to the teaching of sustainability.

Success Criteria

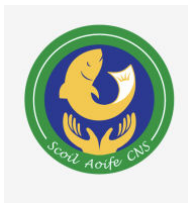
The school-wide implementation of this policy will ensure:

- Continuous participation in the Green Schools programme.
- Continuous improvement, development and use of the school gardens.
- Children will participate in lessons throughout the year on areas of sustainability within the SESE curriculum.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following people have particular responsibilities for aspects of this policy:

- Teaching staff



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- Parents and guardians
- Board of Management
- Students

Implementation Date

This policy was implemented on

Timetable for Review

The operation of this policy will be reviewed and if necessary, amended every four years.

Reference Section

Green Schools website: greenschoolsireland.org

SESE Curriculum

SPHE Curriculum

Ratification and Communication

The policy was circulated to the members of the Board of Management prior to the meeting at which it was formally ratified. Notification that the policy is available for viewing will be communicated to parents on the school website. The policy will also be available for viewing on the school website.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on _10/06/26__ and signed on their behalf by:

Chairperson SACNS BOM