St. Kilian's Community School

DRAFT Sustainability Policy Statement

Introductory 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)

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 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. Sustainability in schools is important because it teaches students how their daily actions affect the planet, reduces harmful carbon emissions and waste, and builds practical green skills for the future.
- It turns school buildings into healthy spaces for learning while preparing students
- for future green jobs.

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

St Kilian's Community School has always seen its role as providing the best possible quality of education for the young people of Ballywaltrim, Bray and North Wicklow, regardless of their ability or social and economic background. We offer a broad curriculum and place a major emphasis on the pastoral care of our students. We believe that our school is a community and we promote mutually respectful relationships between all members of that community.

The school has been established in accordance with the Deed of Trust for Community Schools, with the object of providing a comprehensive system of post-primary education open to all the children of the community. It aims to combine instruction in academic and practical subjects, and on-going education for persons living at or near St. Kilian's Community School in Co. Wicklow, for the purpose of contributing towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical wellbeing and development of the local community.

The school's Mission Statement says: St. Kilian's Community School works to ensure that each pupil is enabled to learn to the best of his/her ability and to mature with confidence and dignity. The school endeavours to achieve this mission in all its activities.

Highlighted

are the SDG goals that we feel align with the ethos here at st. Kilians, and these are the ones we will focus on in the coming years.

St. Kilians Ethos To ensure the best possible education for our students, St. Kilian's C.S. believes that everyone;	**The 3 SDG focus goals**
has rights with responsibilities	• **Quality Education:** Ensure inclusive and equitable education.
must be treated fairly and equally	• **Gender Equality:** Empower women and girls.
should be supported to be the best they can be	• **Good Health and Well-Being:** Promote healthy lives for all ages
should get value for the time they spend	
must be shown respect	
should feel welcome and have fun	
must be able to access high-quality facilities	



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 areas 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

Yellow Flag Committee:

The Yellow Flag committee had been an active part of the school for two years, in2018/ 2019 but wasn't reestablished after covid. Plans for re- establishment of the committee are set for September 2026.

The plan is to form a diversity and well-being committee who meet each month. The committee will be composed of representatives from the staff and students in the school. It is estimated that 26% of the student population is made up of international students or students from diverse cultural backgrounds. The make-up of the committee aims to reflect the cultural diversity of the student body.

In all initiatives we ensure that young people take up leadership roles. The committee will hope to foster a culture of inclusion and diversity within our school. Responsibilities of the committee will include creating an awareness of justice and peace issues amongst their peers, contributing to and supporting students' and teachers' well-being, celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion and challenging racism.

The flag programme would already link in with our multicultural day were we celebrate all the nationalities attending our school in a festival of food, entertainment and community.

The Green School Committee

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 school committee was one of the most active groups in the school. One side of their work was, in terms of recycling and maintaining the school's physical environment. Another is raising awareness of environmental issues and the school community's responsibilities in this area. Their great work was recognised in the school being awarded its first Green Flag in 2015. The committee was active until 2019 when Covid interrupted the committee and the school day.

We currently wish to work towards reestablishing our green school's flag in recycling and move on to reduction of energy and we would need a team of students and teachers that could spearhead a campaign within the school.

Goal 1 and 2:

- **Our school will aim to rejoin the Green Schools Programme 2026-2027**
- **Our school will aim to rejoin the Yellow Schools Programme 2026-2027**

Schools | Community Energy | SEAIhttps://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.
- Attention is given to signage in computer rooms and reminding students to shut down and turn off devices and lights
- Striving towards a paper free school, where possible, Digital Newsletter, Microsoft Teams, Compass and digital correspondence.
- New school website, sustainability focus.
- New students journal with a dedicated student section on sustainability.
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment. Lights turned off, water not left running, recycled paper for printing
- All new LED lighting 2025/2026 including the sports hall.
- Upgraded state of the art heating system installed in 2025-2026.
- 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. Transition year students are an active part in school clean ups and maintenance of our garden and courtyard spaces.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning; our school has a school garden and biodiversity pond.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity pond, high vegetable beds, fruit trees, wild garden and planters.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school. Our school partakes in cycle to work.

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. CSPE AND SPHE
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated. New ASD classroom inn 2025/2026 and plans for a second in 2027-2028.
- Neurodiversity week
- Inclusive ethos regarding enrolment -Ukrainian and other IPass students.
- Fully accessible state of the art toilet facilities developed in recent years.
- Full accessible School and grounds.
- We have a strong SEN Team, EAL teachers and support structures.
- All school staff are provided with the training in the area of conflict resolution, to support and affect positive student behaviour.
- Bi Cinealta Policy.
- One Good School Programme.

Economic Sustainability

- DEIS school , which provides access to our students to a Breakfast club, subsidised hot school lunches , home school liaison, school completion officer and access to our JCSP library.
- 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, student council involvement.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills. TY Mini-Company. LCA Companies and enterprise projects.
- 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.
- Shared used of facilities, Ardmore rovers use sports hall and football facilities. Local Chinese language school uses the school on weekends.
- Office space provided for school completion programme.

Social sustainability

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.
- We host an annual multicultural day every January showcasing our diverse school communities and their cultural contributions to the school.
- 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. CPD support and engagement with the Take 1 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. Student voice is key and students are involved in decisions about our school and the impact of energy use; the climate and recycling have on a whole school community.
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects for example GAISCE awards, Young Scientist, Sci Fest, Junk Kouture and environmental studies.

- Our school has a Student Council/ Sustainability Committee/ Green Team. JCSP sustainability projects, make a book, one school one community.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects, Relove fashion, Junk Kouture, biodiversity projects.
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community, projects with Laura Lynn Charity, Bray Drugs Awareness campaign, RSPCA, Focus Ireland, Simon community, Tidy Towns.

Goals

As part of Our schools identified needs and priorities in 2024 document under:

https://www.stkilianscs.com/cmsAdmin/uploads/st-kilian-s-cs-priorities-&-needs-(february-1st-2024)).pdf

- 2026-2029 DEIS plan pending that supports sustainability goals.

Healthy School Environment / Culture of Wellbeing for Students, Staff and Parents

Long term 5 to 10 years

3 goals that we wish to work on;

- **Improve the physical environment of the school. More recycling green spaces**
- **Facilitate and encourage Student Voice, a new Green school and Yellow schools committee.**
- **Promote ownership of and pride in all aspects of school life.**

How will we do this?
A new celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd 2027.
Mind your mind week and wellbeing week, October 2026
Cycle against suicide
Multicultural day, January 2027
Possible funding application for an outdoor classroom and refreshed outdoor areas for both staff and students

Short term 1 to 3 years

In addition, we wish to reestablish our green and yellow schools committee and flags

- **Our school will aim to achieve a new Green schools committee and a flag by 2027/2028.**

- **Our school will aim to achieve a Yellow flag by 2027/2028.**
- **Our school will aim to make sustainability a regular agenda item at staff and other meetings throughout the school year.**
- **CPD training for sustainability committee members, management/ staff and students.**

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 18/06/2026. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.