



Sustainability Policy Statement

1. Introduction and Purpose

Our school is committed to promoting sustainability, environmental responsibility and climate action through teaching, learning and everyday school practices.

This Sustainability Policy Statement reflects the School Sector Climate Action Mandate and Ireland's National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD to 2030).

Our aim is to develop pupils' knowledge, skills, values and attitudes so that they can contribute positively to a sustainable, inclusive and equitable society.

This policy applies to all pupils, staff and members of the school community. The Board of Management will support its implementation and ensure that sustainability is considered in school planning and decision-making.

2. Our Vision and Commitment

Our school strives to provide a caring, inclusive and high-quality learning environment where every child can reach their potential.

We are committed to fostering respect, responsibility, cooperation and appreciation for the natural environment.

We recognise that small, consistent actions by individuals and communities can contribute to meaningful environmental and social change.

3. Whole-School Approach to Sustainability

Education for Sustainable Development is recognised as an important cross-curricular theme and a shared responsibility throughout our school.

We aim to:

- Embed sustainability within teaching, learning and everyday school practices.
- Encourage pupil voice, choice and agency in sustainability initiatives.
- Promote outdoor learning, environmental awareness and practical action.
- Support collaboration among pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.
- Develop staff knowledge and confidence in sustainability education.

Trim Educate Together National School

Roll No. 20444B

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Our approach reflects the vision and principles of the redeveloped Primary School Curriculum, particularly inclusion, learner agency, active and meaningful learning, playful and inquiry-based approaches, collaboration and responsiveness to individual learning needs.

Sustainability provides opportunities for integrated learning across the curriculum, particularly in Science, Technology and Engineering Education (STE), Mathematics, Social and Environmental Education, Wellbeing, Language and Arts Education.

4. Environmental Sustainability

Our school is committed to protecting the natural environment and encouraging responsible use of resources.

We aim to:

- Encourage participation in environmental education initiatives and practical whole-school sustainability projects.
- Promote recycling, composting, waste reduction and responsible energy and water use.
- Encourage biodiversity through gardening, planting and wildlife-friendly practices.
- Promote sustainable transport where practical.
- Develop outdoor learning spaces that support environmental education.

School Polytunnel and Outdoor Learning

Our existing school polytunnel provides an opportunity to develop practical, inclusive and meaningful sustainability learning experiences.

We are committed to developing the polytunnel as a whole-school resource where pupils can explore sustainable food production, biodiversity, seasonal growing, composting and water conservation.

The polytunnel will support scientific inquiry, investigation, design thinking, mathematical understanding, creativity, problem-solving and collaboration across curriculum areas.

Activities will be planned to ensure meaningful participation by pupils of different ages, abilities and learning needs, with appropriate opportunities for pupil choice, exploration and active engagement.

Through this initiative, we aim to strengthen environmental responsibility, pupil engagement and whole-school capacity in Education for Sustainable Development.



5. Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability

Social Sustainability

Our school promotes equality, inclusion, wellbeing and respect for diversity. We aim to ensure that all pupils have meaningful opportunities to participate in school activities and sustainability initiatives, while encouraging cooperation, pupil voice and shared responsibility.

Economic Sustainability

We encourage responsible use of resources, including energy, water, materials and equipment. Pupils will have opportunities to develop an understanding of sustainable consumption, waste reduction and the benefits of local food production.

Cultural Sustainability

We value cultural diversity, local heritage and community connections. We encourage pupils to appreciate different traditions, develop an understanding of global citizenship and recognise the importance of working together towards a sustainable future.

6. Teaching, Learning and Capacity Building

Our school recognises the importance of developing the knowledge, skills and confidence of both pupils and staff in Education for Sustainable Development.

We will:

- Encourage active, playful, inquiry-based and action-oriented sustainability learning.
- Support teacher collaboration, professional learning and the sharing of effective practices.
- Promote pupil agency, creativity, critical thinking, computational thinking and problem-solving.
- Encourage peer learning and cooperation across class levels.
- Provide inclusive learning opportunities that recognise pupils' diverse strengths, interests and support needs.
- Explore opportunities to involve parents, local experts and community organisations in sustainability initiatives.

Our polytunnel and outdoor learning spaces will provide opportunities to strengthen these approaches through meaningful, real-world learning experiences.

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7. Sustainability Goals

Our school will work towards the following goals:

1. **Environmental Responsibility:** Promote biodiversity, waste reduction, sustainable resource use and practical environmental action.
2. **Whole-School Participation:** Embed sustainability across school life and ensure inclusive opportunities for all pupils.
3. **Outdoor Learning:** Develop and maintain inclusive outdoor learning environments that promote environmental awareness, biodiversity and practical sustainability education.
4. **Teaching and Learning:** Support integrated learning, pupil agency and staff capacity building in Education for Sustainable Development.
5. **Community Engagement:** Strengthen collaboration with parents, local organisations and the wider school community.

8. Monitoring and Review

The school will review progress in implementing this policy through ongoing reflection, staff collaboration, pupil participation and evaluation of sustainability initiatives.

Specific projects may be supported by action plans outlining activities, responsibilities and intended outcomes.

This statement will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains relevant to school priorities, curriculum developments and national sustainability objectives.

Approved by: Board of Management

Date of Adoption: October 2026

Next Review: October 2027

Signed: 

(Chairperson)

Signed: 

(Principal)