

Sustainability Policy Statement

2024

Saint Mogue's College



Sustainability Policy Statement

Overview

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](http://www.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.

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. Mogue's College is justifiably proud of its reputation for excellence in education. In keeping with the ethos of the Education Act 1998, St. Mogue's College is committed to the intellectual, physical, social, personal, spiritual, moral and aesthetic development of all its students.

Life within the school community reflects its mission statement –

Our Mission is to create a safe, respectful, inclusive, environment that promotes sustainability, equality, and social responsibility so that all can achieve their full potential.

School Aims

- To create a positive environment for teaching and learning.
- To encourage respect for self, others and the environment.
- To engender self-discipline, motivation and responsibility.
- To nurture the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

We emphasize the importance of quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13), and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) in all aspects of our curriculum and community engagement.

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.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD 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 is part of the Green Schools Programme and were *awarded our first Green Flag award in 2023 for Litter and Waste Management. Our school is currently working towards achieving its second Green Flag award in Water has a Green Team comprising a lead staff team and student team.*
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
 - All classrooms, corridors and the staffroom have recycling bins and waste sorting opportunities.
 - The school provides compost bins and a composting area outside.
 - Battery recycling boxes are located on the corridor for whole school use.
 - Plastic Bottle collection points are located around the school .
 - As a digital school our paper usage is kept to a minimum.
 - Students engage in recycling and upcycling projects.
 - Green Team students manage recycling and separate rubbish and compost daily.
 - Our students engage in litter picking in the community and actively promote recycling and waste management strategies.

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- Our school engages with the SEAI Energy in Education resources.
 - Our school is currently being refurbished to LED Lighting.
 - Our new building in a Passive Structure.
 - Our building has been insulated and windows and doors updated to conserve energy.
 - Our school engages with SEAI, WWGS, Concern and ECO UNESCO in the area of sustainable development.
 - Our school has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, energy`.
 - Water fountains are available on our corridors and reusable water bottles are provided and promoted.
 - Heat controls have been installed in all new classrooms.
 - The students manage the canteen so Single Use Utensils/plastics are avoided.
 - Composting bins are provided.
 - Water collection butts outside are used in our Gardens.
 - Cisterns have Dual flush systems.
 - New Taps fitted to reduce water consumption.
 - Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices on the main school corridors and in our classrooms and teachers highlight initiatives during tutor period.
 - Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment and engages with programs that support and promote Environmental education.
 - Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning through the development of our school garden where we have planted herbs and pollinator friendly flowers to increase awareness around self-sufficiency and sustainability.
 - Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity in our No Mow Areas, Wellbeing Garden, Wildflower Garden, planters, bug hotels and polytunnel (currently under construction) and composting areas.

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- Our school are engaged in the Physical Activity in Teaching and Learning pilot programme to facilitate the practical application of knowledge and enrich our cultural and environmental appreciation through physical activity among learners, teachers and school leaders.
 - The school engages with the Heritage Council each year to provide workshops and are part of the Heritage in Schools TY Programme.
 - Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School Programme and are developing an action plan for our community.
 - Our School hosts events to highlight key events such as ECO Week, Climate Action Week, International Women’s Day, May Day for Sustainability, Take 1 Programme and other initiatives.

Social Sustainability



- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- Our school was awarded the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at local level working with Innovating Communities, An Gaisce, The Big Idea, Euroschola, Green Schools and WWGS and Concern Debates among others.
- 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 and hold the Diplomatic Passport Award.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- Our school implement a positive code of behaviour strategy.

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 through our Cinnirí system and Student Council.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills completing the Student Enterprise Programme, hosting a Christmas Cultural Market and through enterprising initiatives within the school.
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.

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 uses restorative practice and positive behavioural policies.
- 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 students were awarded Silver Medals from DCU's Intergenerational Solidarity Award.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community.
 - Our School Exchange Programme enriches our cultural community.

Teacher Competence

- Our Teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD. e.g. Saint Mogue's school staff and leaders have completed training with the Take 1 Programme, WWGS, Concern, Stand Up 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, group work and project based assessment.
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects,
 - Our students work with TY Mini Business, The Big Idea, Social Innovators, Concern Debates, YEA, and other such initiatives.
- Our school has a Student Council, Sustainability Committee and Green Team who are involved in decisions about all aspects of school decision making.
- Our School has a Ciniri System and a Mentoring System that promotes leadership. The students use their individual talents and strengths to carry out duties and help promote the ethos of the school by supporting staff and students in everyday tasks, events and initiatives. The roles include

overseeing responsibility for the Environment, Wellbeing and Community Liaison as well as Head Boy and Head Girl.

- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects working with the Local Development Association, Tidy Towns and GAA on sustainability and heritage projects.
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community with initiatives such as Innovating Communities, The Big Idea and an Gaisce.

Goals

Our school will aim to achieve a Green Flag for Water by 2025.

Our school will actively promote the SDG's and review our policy documents so that they are all aligned to the Principles of Sustainable Development by 2025.

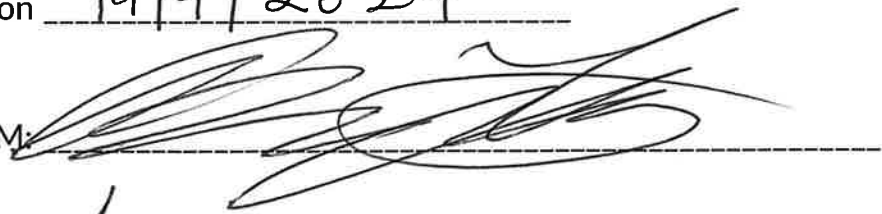
Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 19/09/2024. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

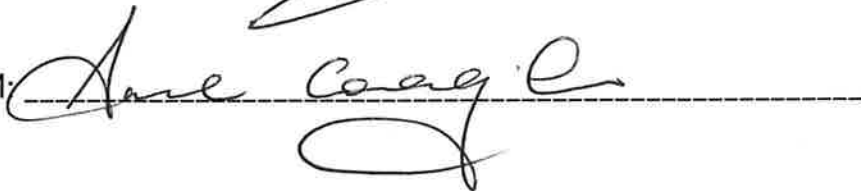
Policy Ratification:

This Policy was ratified on 19/9/2024

Signed Chairperson BOM:



Signed Secretary BOM:





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