



Derryooper National School Policies

Roll Number: 17547R

Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert

Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.

Phone: 0860483344

Principal: Padraig Lohan

Derryooper National School Sustainable Development Policy

1. Introduction

Derryooper National School recognises its responsibility to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to a sustainable future. Our **Sustainable Development Policy** aims to instil awareness and proactive behaviour regarding environmental sustainability, conservation, and responsible resource management. Through active participation, students, staff, and the wider school community will work collaboratively to create a more sustainable environment.

This policy is in line with **Irish and international sustainability commitments**, including the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **Department of Education's National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD to 2030)**.

2. Legal Framework & Compliance

This policy aligns with the following **legislation and guidelines**:

- *Education Act 1998*
- *Education for Sustainable Development: A National Strategy to 2030*
- *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021*
- *Waste Management Act 1996*
- *European Green Deal (EU Climate Laws)*
- *Irish Green-Schools Initiative*
- *UNESCO Guidelines on Sustainability Education*
- *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025*

3. School Commitment to Sustainability

Derryooper National School commits to:

- Integrating **sustainability education** into the curriculum.
- Ensuring **environmentally responsible management** of school grounds and resources.
- Promoting **waste reduction, energy conservation, and water efficiency**.
- Encouraging **eco-conscious behaviour** among students and staff.
- Collaborating with the **wider community and environmental organizations** to enhance sustainability efforts.
- Supporting biodiversity conservation by implementing environmentally friendly school practices.
- Ensuring that sustainable development is embedded in all aspects of school life, from teaching and learning to administration and school events.

4. Sustainable School Initiatives

4.1 Litter & Waste Management

We will:

- **Reduce waste production** by encouraging the use of **reusable** and **biodegradable materials**.
- **Reuse paper** where possible and encourage **double-sided printing**.
- **Recycle paper, plastics, glass, clothing, and ink cartridges**.
- **Monitor waste generation** and implement an ongoing waste reduction plan.
- **Participate in Green-Schools waste awareness campaigns**.
- Establish composting areas to reduce food waste.
- Introduce a waste-segregation system in all classrooms and school offices.

4.2 Water Conservation

We will:

- **Educate pupils on water conservation** through curriculum activities.
- **Monitor and reduce water waste** in the school through regular assessments.
- **Install water-saving devices** (e.g., dual flush toilets, sensor taps).
- **Engage in water conservation initiatives** and promote awareness campaigns.
- Conduct water audits annually to track and reduce water usage.
- Encourage rainwater harvesting for watering school gardens.

4.3 Energy Efficiency

We will:

- **Encourage energy-efficient behaviour**, such as turning off lights, appliances, and screens when not in use.
- **Use energy-efficient LED lighting** across the school.
- **Monitor and track energy usage** to identify areas for improvement.
- **Implement the use of renewable energy sources**, such as solar power, where feasible.
- Ensure all school events consider energy usage and promote low-energy alternatives.
- Encourage the use of natural light in classrooms where possible.

4.4 Sustainable Transport

We will:

- Promote **safe walking and cycling to school** through initiatives like **Green-Schools Travel**.
- Encourage **carpooling and the use of public transport** where possible.
- Raise awareness about the **environmental impact of different transport choices**.
- Participate in **road safety awareness programs**.
- Provide safe and secure cycle storage facilities for students and staff.
- Advocate for traffic-calming measures near the school.

4.5 Outdoor Learning & Biodiversity

We will:

- Develop **outdoor classrooms** and promote **nature-based learning experiences**.
- Maintain and expand **green spaces, flower beds, and vegetable gardens**.
- Create and sustain **biodiversity habitats** for pollinators and local wildlife.
- Promote **tree planting programs** in collaboration with local environmental groups.
- Encourage students to participate in biodiversity monitoring projects.
- Ensure that school grounds remain pesticide-free to protect biodiversity.

4.6 Healthy Living & Wellbeing

We will:

- Encourage a **balanced diet and healthy eating habits**.
- Provide access to **outdoor physical activity spaces**.
- Raise awareness about the impact of **air quality and pollution on health**.
- Promote **mental well-being through green spaces** and mindfulness activities.
- Engage in initiatives such as the **Active School Flag Programme** to promote physical activity.
- Support student-led projects that focus on health, fitness, and mental well-being.

5. Implementation & Monitoring

A dedicated **Sustainability Committee** will oversee the implementation of this policy. This group, comprised of **staff, students, and parents**, will:

- Conduct **annual sustainability audits**.
- Monitor **energy, water, and waste consumption**.
- Organize **awareness campaigns and student-led eco-projects**.
- Update the **Eco-Code** yearly to reflect new sustainability goals.
- Ensure that all staff and students participate in sustainability initiatives.
- Report progress to the **Board of Management** at least once per year.

All **staff members** will:

- Ensure **efficient use of resources** in classrooms and common areas.

- Encourage **students to engage in sustainability efforts**.
- Report any **environmental hazards or inefficiencies** to the site supervisor.
- Participate in ongoing professional development related to sustainability education.

6. Review & Policy Updates

This **Sustainable Development Policy** will be reviewed **annually** by the **Board of Management and the Sustainability Committee** to ensure compliance with national and global sustainability initiatives. The policy will be updated as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, best practices, and technological advancements.

7. Approval & Signature Page

This Sustainable Development Policy has been prepared by the **Principal** and approved by the **Board of Management**.

Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management: _____

Principal, Derryoover National School:



Date:

19 February 2025
