

Monastery School Environmental Policy

Introduction :

The Board of Management, Staff and Pupils of The Monastery School, wish to declare our commitment to our duty of care for the world in which we live. This policy was developed in consultation with pupils and staff during the 2021-2022 school year.

Aims/ Rationale :

We have developed this Sustainable Environment Policy to declare that as a Green School we are dedicated to

- Reducing the Environmental impact of our activities.
- Raising awareness of simple actions that contribute to the environment.
- Ensuring that good habits relating to the environment are developed in the children that will remain with them to adulthood.
- Promoting an awareness of environmental issues and responsibility in the wider school community.
- Ensuring that curricular areas and initiatives reflect and enhance our commitment to a sustainable environment.

Litter and Waste:

All classrooms are provided with three bins. One for waste to be recycled, a compost bin and a bin for tissue for hand-drying due to Covid protocols.

A battery recycling box is also provided to each classroom. Batteries are collected weekly and once a term the collection is delivered to the nearest recycling centre.

A shredding tray is provided to each classroom to collect used paper and worksheets that are not being filed. Shredding is collected weekly and the shredded paper is given to pupils/adults for animal bedding.

Staff are aware of the need to photocopy on both sides of the page to minimise paper waste. Photocopying will be done in black and white unless for an essential purpose.

Aladdin Connect is used as the main means of communication with families. All notices, information sheets and forms are sent via Aladdin to greatly reduce the amount of paper letters sent home with children.

Litter Wardens are selected from 5th class on a weekly rota. They check the yard areas after each break for any stray litter.

Recycled materials are used for Art and Craft projects during the year and are collected as needed.

Children are encouraged to bring a reusable drinks bottle and lunch box to school.

The school participates in the Hot Meals programme. All materials and packaging are made from recyclable materials . Waste is collected by the food company Glanmore Foods daily.

Any electrical waste is collected and stored until Wee Ireland is hosting a collection in the vicinity. Families are encouraged to hand in old uniforms (in good condition) at the end of the year and they are reused /reallocated to children when the need arises.

The School will participate in the An Taisce National Spring Clean in the school environment and in the locality with the local Tidy Towns Group as a positive environmental action .

Energy .

We are committed to responsible energy management and will practice energy efficiency throughout all areas of the school.

A new boiler was installed in 2010 and it is maintained on an annual basis.

Energy saving reminders and signage is on display throughout the school

Energy monitors are appointed on a rota basis in each classroom to encourage responsible energy usage.

All lights are switched off when classes are leaving the room. #Computers and whiteboards are to be place on standby during breaktimes.

Every room has a thermosat so that the temperature of the room can be adjusted.

All external doors are to be kept closed in order to reduce heat loss during the winter season.

All classrooms are fitted with energy efficient sensor lights .

Energy usage is recorded on an ongoing basis and annual energy usage of electricity and oil is reported to SEAI annually.

Water usage.

Water conservation is an important part of our effort to operate our school in a sustainable way.

Water conservation measures were installed in our school in 2012.

Push button taps were installed in all toilets and bathrooms.

Hippo bags were installed in the cisterns to minimise the amount of water flushed.

Water butts are placed at two downpipes in the yard areas. This water is used for watering plants in the school garden.

The flushing mechanism on the communal urinals is turned off at the weekends.

Travel to school

A bicycle storage area has been installed at the front of the school. Boys are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where it is safe to do so. Park and Stride is also encouraged.

A Bike Workshop is held during Active Schools Week to provide lessons on safe cycling and road usage and on bike maintenance.

The RSA visit the school on an annual basis to provide workshops on road safety to the children.

We will endeavour to hold a number of Park and Stride days annually to encourage sustainable travel to school.

School Garden:

We recognise the value our wonderful school garden holds as a resource for teaching and learning about the environment. All classes have access to growing areas and are encouraged to plant and maintain vegetables each year. Our two water butts provide water for this. Our senior classes made and installed bird boxes in 2015 and they provide opportunities for us to watch a variety of birds who visit the garden. Our junior classes take responsibility for feeding the birds in winter.

The building of a pergola and outside seating in 2021 allows for outdoor teaching and learning when the weather permits.

Our school field provides us with a valuable resource for play and learning. We enjoy many trips to the field to explore the natural environment as part of our SESE and SPHE curriculum.

Field trips in the locality with environmentalist Albert Nolan take place annually.

Curriculum and Initiatives

Curricular initiatives that support learning are

Active Schools Week

An Taisce Spring Clean

Science Week

Tidy Schools

Implementation and Ratification :

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 7th April 2022.

Signed: 

(Chairperson Board of Management)

Date :

07/04/2022