



Ballygiblin National School

Sustainability Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy sets out our commitment to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness in Ballygiblin National School. It outlines how we will embed sustainable practices into our school culture, curriculum, and daily routines. The policy has been drafted collaboratively and will be reviewed regularly.

Rationale

Our aim is to become a more sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint, promoting environmental stewardship, and inspiring our pupils to make positive choices for the planet. We will integrate sustainability across the curriculum, foster ownership and pride in our surroundings, and work with the wider community to improve the local environment.

Vision

Through our teaching and our actions, we aim to inspire our students to:

- Understand their role as global citizens,
- Appreciate the interdependence of people, places, and ecosystems,
- Develop responsible attitudes towards the environment.

We believe small actions, consistently applied, can create meaningful change.

Aims

We strive:

- To raise awareness of waste, litter, pollution, and their impact.
- To encourage conservation of resources including energy and water.
- To promote the use of sustainable transport (walking, cycling, carpooling).
- To foster a sense of responsibility for long-term care of the environment.

- To empower children to make informed, sustainable lifestyle choices.
 - To nurture a respect for all living things and the natural world.
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Green Schools Programme

We will participate in An Taisce's Green Schools Programme. While we are at the start of our journey, our commitment is to progress towards our first Green Flag and further flags in the coming years.

Note: As our flags are awarded, this section will be updated.

Implementation Areas

Waste

- Minimise rubbish and recycle where possible.
- Encourage reusable lunch containers and drinks bottles.
- Recycle paper, plastic, and batteries appropriately.
- Use both sides of paper where possible.
- Monitor and reduce food waste.

Practice in classrooms and offices:

- Bins clearly labelled for recycling and general waste.
 - Compost bins for fruit and vegetable scraps.
 - Regular discussions and lessons about waste reduction.
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Energy

- Promote a 'Switch Off' culture for lights, devices, and appliances.
 - Assign student Energy Monitors in each class.
 - Explore 'Low Energy Days' and 'No Power Hours' to raise awareness.
 - Teach lessons on energy conservation in SESE.
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Water

- Remind everyone to turn off taps fully.
- Report and repair leaks promptly.
- Use water butts or rainwater harvesting where possible.
- Include water conservation in lessons.

Travel

- Encourage walking, cycling, scooting, and carpooling.
- Consider initiatives such as “Walk on Wednesdays.”
- Communicate with families about safe, sustainable travel options.
- Raise awareness of the impact of engine idling near school gates.

Biodiversity

- Maintain and improve our school garden.
- Plant native species that support pollinators.
- Create habitats such as insect hotels and bird feeders.
- Explore vegetable growing and seasonal planting.
- Use natural materials for outdoor learning areas.

Curriculum Integration

- Teachers will embed sustainability themes into SESE, SPHE, and across subject areas.
- Use hands-on projects and investigations to build skills and understanding.
- Promote student-led initiatives such as litter picks and biodiversity surveys.
- Take part in national campaigns (National Spring Clean, Tree Week, etc.).

Other Initiatives

- Minimise paper communications—use Aladdin and email where possible.
- Reuse and repurpose materials in art and other activities.
- Encourage children to bring home all lunch packaging (“what comes in, goes home”).

Roles and Responsibilities

All members of the school community have a role to play:

Principal & Deputy Principal:

Overall leadership, resourcing, and support.

Green Schools Co-ordinator (Ms. Murphy):

Coordinate activities, maintain records, and lead the committee.

Staff:

Model sustainable practices and integrate sustainability into teaching.

Pupils:

Take ownership and participate actively.

Parents & Guardians:

Support school initiatives and reinforce sustainable habits at home.

Board of Management:

Ratify, review, and support implementation.

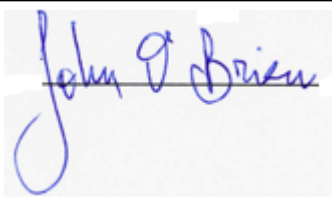

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Progress will be reviewed annually and whenever a new Green Schools theme is undertaken.
 - Regular updates will be provided to the school community via newsletters, website, and social media.
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Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Signatures

	
<i>John O'Brien</i>	<i>David Hyland</i>
<i>Chairperson BOM</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Date: 18/11/2025</i>	<i>Date: 18/11/2025</i>