# Drumfad National School

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## Sustainability Policy Statement
## Drumfad National School

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 - 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)

### Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement ("the 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

Our vision in Drumfad NS is a sustainable community where our pupils are actively engaged in creating a fairer, better world for all.

Our mission is for pupils, staff, and the wider community to take an active role in caring for the planet. We aim to empower our school community by building the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to create a more sustainable world through meaningful actions.

Drumfad N.S. strives to provide a caring, happy, secure and inclusive learning environment where each child is nurtured and valued for his or her own sake. The values of Christian living based on "Love God" and "Love one Another" will permeate the life of the school. The school will promote the values of nurturing pupils as responsible citizens in the community, country and wider world. The school will value all its pupils and teachers equally and will promote self-respect and mutual respect among all of the school community. The virtues of honesty, truthfulness, tolerance and consideration for others will be fostered. A positive and optimistic attitude to the world will be part of the school policy. These values extend beyond teaching and learning, fostering strong relationships, a deep connection to nature, and a shared responsibility for caring for our environment."

Our school is a professionally led learning community. Our teaching staff is our most valuable resource, and the Board of Management actively encourages and supports them in seeking out every opportunity for professional learning.

Our school acknowledges the key role played by parents in the education process and endeavours to foster and facilitate the partnership between home and school.

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.

***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, and this is co-ordinated effectively in our school.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- All our school policies are aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/a1d6e-education-for-sustainable-development-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.

Our school has been awarded 4 Green Flags for the following themes;
1. Litter & Waste
2. Energy
3. Water
4. Travel

We are currently working on the theme Biodiversity and will be applying for this Green Flag in 2025/2026. Our school has a Green Schools Committee comprising staff and students. The Committee meet once a term and bring back the up to date information to their class teachers. The Green Schools Co-Ordinator ensure that information is up to date on the school website.

Our school is currently working towards the Climate Ambassadors Award in 2026 as well as biodiversity in schools Nature Hero Award.

- Our school engages'The National Spring Clean' in the areas of litter and waste reduction, SEAI Exploring our Energy and Heritage in Schools programme.
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling plan in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has comprehensive practices in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics, energy, composting and the circular economy.
- Our school demonstrates water conservation by using a water butt to harvest rainwater for watering our vegetables.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment eg. recycled paper for printing, eco cleaning materials
- Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning through our gardening activities, the raised beds, the wildflower garden.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity. We have raised vegetable beds, a pond, a beech hedgerow, we have planted bee friendly plants, fruit trees, wildflowers and herbs, we have an area that we don't mow in April May and June.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school.
- We participate in the Cycle Right programme 2022/2026 and we arrange walks to school and during the school day.
- Our teachers and caretaker undertake CPD in the area of sustainability.

***Social Sustainability***

- ? Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global
- community.
- ? Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues
- surrounding gender equity.
- ? The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning
- abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.

***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. We have a Green School Committee, a Student Council,
- Amber Flag Committee and an Active Schools Committee and the pupils are regularly consulted on their views.
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles. We consult our pupils on the charities that are in nneed and we raise money for local, national and international causes.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practice in the area of sustainability in mind. Where possible, we purchase materials produced sustainably e.g. our recycled plastic seating and picnic tables. These measures have all been undertaken with sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy.
- We use artwork and upcycled recycled materials to spread awareness about sustainability in our community.

***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 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 eg.volunteer days, celebrations. We support the work of our local Tidy Towns Association.
- We endeavour to purchase books for our school library which reflect diversity and alternatives perspectives.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the
- school itself, and in the wider school community.

***Teacher Competence***

- Our Teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD.
- Opportunities for teachers to upskill in the area of ESD is available through education centres.

***Student Competence***

? Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities

? Our school has a Green Schools Committee who are involved in decisions about improving sustainable practices in our school.

Goals

? Our school will aim to achieve the Nature hero Award by 2026.

? Pupils will be given the opportunity at least once a term to connect to nature through school gardening activities such as planting, being creative using objects from the environment, visits from heritage specialists and outdoor learning.

? Encourage all staff to reduce paper usage.

? Install new polytunnel, mud kitchen, water tunnel, poly tunnels and Bird table (ESD funding 2025)

? CPD- teachers will be sent ESD CPD schedule by email at the start of each term and the schedule will be displayed on staff noticeboard.

***Implementation and review***

This Statement was implemented on 19th February 2026.
To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.

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Chairperson's signature: Date:

_____ _____

Principal's signature: Date: