



## **Sustainability and Environmental Policy**

### **Rosemont School**

January 2023 - First version of policy

**Introductory Statement** - This policy document is the result of the collaboration of the Green Schools committee and staff together with the Board of Management.

#### **Rationale**

Rosemont School aims to become a sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into many areas of the curriculum, establishing a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment. We will aim to lead the community by demonstrating good practice in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

#### **Relationship to the ethos of the school**

Sustainability and caring for the environment are central to the ethos of Rosemont School through the teaching of the various subject areas and is embedded into our curriculum from 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> year.

At Rosemont School, the focus on the holistic development of the students and the importance we place on acts of service to others are central to our mission statement. Sustainability links strongly to these values through social engagement, volunteering and by students making a positive contribution to society.

**Aims** - By introducing this policy, the school hopes:

- i. To become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and man-made environments.
- ii. To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. recycling, energy and water.
- iii. To promote sustainable practice in the classroom and school environment.
- iv. To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling, scooting and walking to school.
- v. To foster a sense of responsibility for the long-term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal lifestyle and participation in collective environmental decision making.
- vi. To enable students to live as an informed and caring member of local, national, European and global communities.
- vii. To acquire open and responsible attitudes and critical thinking skills towards the environment.
- viii. Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences our students will acquire skills to help care for our environment immediately and have a long-term impact.
- ix. To understand the actions that people can have on the environment.

**Procedures and Guidelines** - How to reduce the school's ecological footprint.

#### **1. Energy**

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school through participation in Green Schools.

## **2. Waste**

- To minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.

## **3. Biodiversity**

- To utilise our garden area to the full extent possible and continue to develop it. To cooperate with school community and local community in maintenance of school garden and surrounding areas

## **4. Water**

- To reduce the water consumption within the school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible. To monitor water usage and report wastage.

## **Implementation**

The school will aim to participate in Green Schools and work towards obtaining Green Flags. Furthermore, every Junior Cycle class will participate in regular CSPE and SPHE lessons. Additional subjects such as Geography, Religion, Science, Home Economics, Business etc. will lend themselves to the promotion and implementation of our policy. The whole school community will be involved and made aware of the work of the Green Schools Committee through regular updates via the Student Council, weekly assemblies, the school newsletter and school app.

## **Energy**

1. Promote a 'switch off and save' rule for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling particularly when leaving the classroom.
2. Students to engage in units of work relating to sustainability across all subject areas.
3. Members of the Student Council will act as classroom energy monitors ensuring that all appliances are completely switched off when not being used to conserve energy.
4. Circulate energy consumption statistics and an energy usage awareness survey to staff and students to promote sustainable use.

## **Waste**

1. Students are reminded to dispose of waste and recycled products appropriately.
2. Food waste is disposed daily and transferred to the correct bin.
3. Use recycled paper for printer/photocopier where possible.
4. Promote the reuse of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.
5. Avoiding giving handouts and photocopies and use Microsoft Teams for sharing information where possible.
6. Recycling bins provided in all classrooms, staff rooms and the school office.
7. Continue to implement the cleaning rota for the main lunch area to reduce litter and promote student ownership of sustainable practice.

## **Biodiversity**

1. Involve students and members of our school community in planting and maintaining our gardens.
2. Protect our outdoor natural environment, by maintenance of our native trees, native plants and wildflowers that encourage and support the insect population, such as bees and butterflies.
3. Use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.
4. Work with the Green School Committee to put in place strategies to support our native birds and wildlife (e.g., bird feeders).

## **Water**

1. Remind students and staff regularly of the importance of turning off taps.
2. Students to engage in units of work relating to water conservation across subject areas such as CSPE, Home Economics, Science, Geography etc.

### **Other Initiatives**

Activities and information campaigns such as the following are currently running within the school:

- Whole school initiative to complete local community clean-up.
- Green School Committee Rosemont Depop (pre-loved clothes sale) to highlight benefits of sustainable consumption.
- Recycling Paper Recycling Bins: A recycling bin for paper is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that any wastepaper will be recycled.
- General Rubbish: A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e., floor dirt etc. and this is emptied daily.
- Compost bins: using a compost bin in the Home Economics room to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Staff will continue to donate recyclable items and materials for use in Art, Junk Kouture, Home Economics CBA's i.e., cardboard rolls, cardboard, paper, tinfoil, recycled bottle tops, buttons, scraps of fabric, etc.
- Rosemont School app: Parents are notified of school information instead of sending out individual letters. This cuts down greatly on the amount of paper being used by the school.
- Mobility: Students are encouraged to use public transport, walk, cycle or scoot to school where possible.
- Competitions and Initiatives: Students and teachers aspire to take part in more environmental and sustainability competitions such as Young Scientist, Junk Kouture.
- Curriculum: The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students. Environmental / Green issues are key elements of both C.S.P.E., S.P.H.E., Religion, Science and Geography etc. The school community will work together to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world-views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living by teaching sustainability. A cross curricular approach will be taken to the teaching of sustainability.

### **Success Criteria**

The school wide implementation of this policy will ensure:

- Continuous implementation of the Green Schools committee and the aspiration to be rewarded with Green Schools' flags.
- Students will participate in lessons throughout the year on areas of sustainability across subject areas.

**Roles and Responsibility** - The following people have responsibilities for aspects of this policy:

- Teaching staff
- Students
- Parents/guardians
- Principal
- Board of Management
- Student Council

Timetable for Review: the policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended every 2-3 years.