



**Cloontuskert N.S.
Cloontuskert,
Lanesboro,
Co. Roscommon.
N39 AT80.
Roll No. 18116S**

**Cloontuskert N.S.
Sustainability Policy Statement**

Reviewed: February 2026

Sustainability Policy Statement

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 \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie/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)

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.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy 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 school’s vision is to create a caring, high quality, learning environment where each child is welcomed, respected, cherished and facilitated in reaching their full potential whatever their background, nationality or faith. (SDG 3 Good health and well-being, SDG 4 Quality Education)

Our school’s mission is to provide a model of primary education that reflects Ireland in the 21st Century. Cloontuskert National School provides a welcome to each child in the community we serve and creates learning opportunities in a setting of diversity and inclusion. Our school caters for the physical, academic, social, emotional and spiritual needs of children within the school day in a supportive and caring environment. (SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities.)

Our schools values kindness, respect, inclusion, integrity, gratitude and responsibility. These values extend beyond teaching and learning fostering good relationships, emotional intelligence and a deep connection to nature and care for the environment.

(SDG 11; Sustainable cities and communities; creating green space in our outdoor learning space/wellbeing area and opening it up to the community during wellbeing days.

SDG 13/15; Climate action/Life on land; planting and engaging with Forest School theory to embrace and enhance our school grounds and biodiversity instead of installing a soft play area/astro grass).

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 was part of the Green Schools Programme. We raised our 7th Green School Flag for Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste in 2017. We took a break from the Green Schools Programme in 2018 to concentrate on other programmes but would like to become involved again with this wonderful programme in the future.
- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD
[Schools | Community Energy | SEAI](https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/)<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/>
- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption.
- Our school engages with SEAI Exploring Our Energy, Grow in Love, Folen's Explorers, Walk Tall, Stay Safe, Heritage in schools, Roscommon Sports Partnership Cycle Right Programme and more in the area of sustainable development.
- Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, energy and single use plastics.
- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.

- 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 where possible but would like to build on this by creating an outdoor classroom and school garden.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity by having ‘No Mow’ areas
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school.
- Our school has requested participation in the Safe Routes to School programme: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education any other programmes working in this field.

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at local level.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- Our school engages with Global Citizenship Education programmes such as World Wise Global Schools <https://www.worldwiseschools.ie/> or other programmes working in this area.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- All school staff are provided with the training in the area of conflict resolution, in order to support and affect positive student behaviour.

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 via our student council.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills through involvement in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme.
- Our school’s fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practise in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy

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.
- 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.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities
- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects
- Our school has a Student Council and Creative Committee who are involved in decision making.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects [e.g. Cloontuskert Tidy Towns]
- Our school is involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community

Goals

Our school will apply to the Burren Beo Trust, Heritage Keepers Programme during the 2026-2027 school year.

Communication and Implementation of the Policy

This policy will be communicated to all parties and will be published on the school website. The Principal in conjunction with the BOM will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Signed:

Chairperson of the BOM

Principal

Date: 13th February 2026