

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. 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 (“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 school motto is *Aide toi, je t’aiderai*. Help yourself and I’ll help you. Newpark Comprehensive School is a supportive, kind, and respectful community that encourages the development of creative, independent, lifelong learners. The school is a pluralist community where a diversity of cultures, beliefs, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and socio-economic backgrounds is deemed integral to the school. In Newpark, all are equal, difference is valued, and diversity is embraced. Newpark encourages students to fulfil their potential in all areas of school life. The school’s comprehensive curriculum offers many different educational experiences, empowering students to develop their individual skills and abilities. The school endeavours to nurture and inspire all its students. Each student is encouraged to strive for academic excellence within their own potential. All students will have a balanced, holistic, and comprehensive education which emphasizes academic, creative, practical, emotional, spiritual, sporting, and social development. The school is committed to creating an enjoyable environment in which the strengths of every person in the community are nurtured. Newpark believes in and encourages positive personal relationships between all members of the school community. The school maintains a culture of respect through restorative practice and endeavours to develop empathy and a sense of belonging.

While supporting and encouraging independence, Newpark advocates for and empowers students to be active citizens committed to sustainable development in their local communities and in national and global settings in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030. Newpark wants each student to move forward on a path in life that maintains, sustains, and challenges their skills and talents, and in doing so, encourages lifelong learning.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement which clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school, its relationship to the vision and mission of Newpark Comprehensive School.
- Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme, and this is co-ordinated in our school across subject departments as well as through the teaching of the *Sustainable Development* module in Transition Year.

- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all curricular subjects.
- All our school policies strive to be aligned to the principles of sustainable development.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are satisfactory at all levels.
- Our school engages in self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network issn.ie and WorldWise Global Schools worldwiseschools.ie
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter gov.ie/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 nationwide Green Schools Programme. Green Schools Newpark has been active since 2013. In that time, the school has been awarded three green flags. Green Schools Newpark, recently renamed the Global Citizenship Committee (GCC), promotes the SDGs and sustainability in our community and beyond. The GCC consists of Newpark students from all years who meet every week to discuss current projects, as well as how to progress in the future.

Newpark Comprehensive School also engages with Worldwise Global Schools in the area of sustainable development. WorldWise Global Schools is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary settings. It was set up in 2013 as the key channel through which Irish Aid support for GCE in post-primary settings is to be coordinated. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of post-primary settings engaging in quality global citizenship education by providing a comprehensive range of supports including workshops for staff training, funding for projects and equips teachers with the tools to explore the root causes of global issues and help both learners and educators to think critically, build empathy, challenge unjust global systems and take meaningful action towards a kinder, fairer and more sustainable world.

Newpark Comprehensive also engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum linked energy resources, student workshops and teacher CPD seai.ie/community-energy/schools/.

Our school engages with the energyineducation.ie/ resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption.

Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible. The school is committed to reducing single use plastic through initiatives such as *Plastic Outta the Park*, initiated in 2018.

Newpark actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment. Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment such as using recycled paper for printing and ethically sourced toilet paper. Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places, with for example the SDG graphics printed on stairwell risers.

Newpark has a school garden and an associated *Gardening Club* which promotes and facilitates biodiversity. The school promotes sustainable transport, including where possible, walking and cycling to school, encouraging car-pooling, and using public transport. The school has designated, covered bicycle parking for students, staff and campus users.

The school engages with programmes that support and promote environmental education such as the Take 1 programme and or 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 worldwiseschools.ie and other programmes in this area.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- In endeavouring to be a restorative school, all school staff are provided with training in the area of restorative practice, in order to support and affect positive student relationships and behaviour.

Economic Sustainability

- A non-competitive ethos of co-operation and sharing of resources is modelled in our school's allocation of its resources.
- Through the various student councils, students are consulted in the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school.
- Our school's fund-raising activities aim to reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles such as Newpark MUN which highlighted SDG#12 Responsible production and consumption.
- 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

- Newpark Comprehensive 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.
- Newpark demonstrates a commitment to community engagement and encourages the community's involvement with the school.

- Newpark has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community through our ECA clubs and societies which include *Pride, Debate, Political Activism, Christian Union, Anti-Racism, Global Citizens, and Model United Nations* newparkschool.ie/clubs.

Teacher Competence

Newpark Comprehensive School teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD through engagement with the Take 1 programme and CPD provided by WorldWide Global Schools and Development Perspectives.

Student Competence

Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer-to-peer learning activities in subjects which study sustainability including Geography, Biology, Politics and Society, CSPE, SPHE and our TY Sustainability programme.

Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects such as the beach clean-up as part of our TY programme.

Goals

Newpark holds a WWGS Diplomatic Passport for settings with established engagement with GCE. As early as 2018, Newpark received widespread recognition for its commitment to eliminate single use plastics, a campaign as part of an ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Project rte.ie/news/dublin-school-plastic. Goals going forward include improving waste management to be more effective and efficient, beginning with the segregation of food, recycling and litter throughout the school campus.

This policy was reviewed in the 2026/2027 academic year.

It will be reviewed as required going forward, in line with changing information, guidelines, legislation, school facilities and/or feedback from school stakeholders.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management, Newpark Comprehensive School at its meeting on 23 September 2026.