

Wicklow Educate Together National School Sustainability Policy Statement

1. Our Commitment

Wicklow Educate Together National School is deeply committed to fostering a sustainable environment, mitigating its contribution to climate change, and educating its community on the principles and practices of environmental stewardship. This policy is adopted in full alignment with the **School Sector Climate Action Mandate** and reflects our responsibility to current and future generations. We recognise that schools must lead by example in the transition to a low-carbon, resilient future.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of Wicklow Educate Together's operations, activities, curriculum, and community interactions, including:

- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Buildings, grounds, energy use, and water management.
 - **Procurement and Waste Management:** Purchasing decisions, resource consumption, and disposal practices.
 - **Curriculum and Education:** Integration of sustainability themes across all subjects and grade levels.
 - **Transportation:** Travel to and from the school for students, staff, and school-related activities.
 - **Community Engagement:** Partnerships, outreach, and advocacy for sustainable practices.
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3. Core Action Areas

In line with the Climate Action Mandate, our primary areas of focus will be:

Action Area	Objective	Key Actions
Energy & Emissions	Reduce carbon emissions from school	Implement energy efficiency measures (e.g., LED lighting, insulation). Transition to renewable energy sources where feasible. Monitor and report on energy

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Action Area	Objective	Key Actions
	operations to meet mandated targets.	consumption and GHG emissions annually.
Waste Management	Minimize waste generation and maximize diversion from landfill.	Implement comprehensive recycling and composting programs. Reduce single-use plastics. Promote sustainable procurement of supplies and equipment.
Water Stewardship	Conserve water and ensure efficient water use across the campus.	Install low-flow fixtures. Implement rainwater harvesting where appropriate. Educate the community on water conservation practices.
Sustainable Travel	Encourage and facilitate low-carbon transportation options for the school community.	Promote cycling, walking, and public transport through initiatives like "Walk/Cycle to School Day." Optimize school transport routes and consider electric or low-emission fleet options.
Curriculum Integration	Embed climate literacy and sustainability education into the learning experience.	Provide professional development for staff on sustainability topics. Integrate hands-on environmental projects and service learning opportunities.
Biodiversity & Grounds	Enhance the ecological value of the school grounds.	Create and maintain natural habitats (e.g., pollinator gardens). Use sustainable landscaping practices that minimise water and chemical use.

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4. Governance and Review

Accountability: The School's Green Schools Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, tracking progress against the Mandate's targets, and reporting to the **School Board of Management** and relevant external bodies.

Review: This policy statement and its associated action plan will be reviewed and updated **annually** to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and adherence to evolving governmental mandates and best practices in sustainability.

Date Adopted: 14th October 2025

Signed: Sinéad Watson