



LEIXLIP
Educate Together National School

Draft Sustainability Policy Statement 2024-205

Introduction

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)

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 of 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 Leixlip ETNS.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement (“the Statement”) is to outline how Leixlip ETNS 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 Leixlip ETNS. 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

Leixlip ETNS's vision is to create a thriving, inclusive community where every student is empowered to become a responsible global citizen. We envision a future where environmental awareness, sustainability, and outdoor learning are central to student growth and development, fostering lifelong stewards of the planet.

Leixlip ETNS's mission is to provide an educational environment that is child-centred, co-educational, equality-based and democratically run, and which promotes equity, creativity, and critical thinking. Through sustainable practices and outdoor learning, we aim to instill a deep respect for nature, inspiring students to take meaningful action on climate change and environmental issues.

Leixlip ETNS's values are rooted in sustainability, respect, inclusivity, and community engagement. We believe in the importance of environmental stewardship, collaboration, and learning through action.

These values align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Leixlip ETNS 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.
- Leixlip ETNS recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme, and this is coordinated 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.
- Adequate and sufficient resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability will be provided at all levels.
- The focus for our School Self Evaluation is on the area of sustainable development.
- Leixlip ETNS is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Leixlip ETNS 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

- Leixlip ETNS will soon be part of the Green Schools Programme.
- Leixlip ETNS has a plastic-free lunch policy
- Leixlip ETNS engages with Biodiversity in Schools' resources in the area of sustainable development
- Leixlip ETNS engages with Heritage in Schools in the area of sustainable development
- Leixlip ETNS has a comprehensive recycling policy in place, and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Leixlip ETNS has comprehensive policies in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics.
- Leixlip ETNS resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- Leixlip ETNS's environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Leixlip ETNS actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Leixlip ETNS promotes and facilitates outdoor learning
- Leixlip ETNS promotes and facilitates biodiversity
- Leixlip ETNS promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and cycling to school
- Leixlip ETNS engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education

Social Sustainability

- Leixlip ETNS's 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.
- Leixlip ETNS's ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- Leixlip ETNS 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 through our democratic ethos and student councils.
- Leixlip ETNS's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.
- Leixlip ETNS's buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practise in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Leixlip ETNS educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy

Cultural Sustainability

- Leixlip ETNS welcomes children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds in an environment that respects their individual identity whilst exploring the different values and traditions of the world in which they live
- Leixlip ETNS's ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, along with a mutual regard and respect for fellow students, and positive social interaction and relationships.
- Leixlip ETNS demonstrates a commitment to community engagement, and encourages the community's involvement with the school.

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
- Leixlip ETNS has a Student Council that has an active voice in the development of the school
- Leixlip ETNSs are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community

Goals

Leixlip ETNS will have a biodiverse outdoor learning space by the end of the 2025/26 school year

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on [DATE] 2024

To ensure Leixlip ETNS strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.