



Cloughjordan No.1 N.S.,
Templemore Road,
Cloughjordan,
Co. Tipperary.
E53 YY82
☎ 0505 – 42318
Email: principal.cloughjordan.no1.ns@gmail.com
cloughjordannno1@gmail.com

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Sustainable Environment Policy/Statement

Introduction

It is important for **Cloughjordan No. 1 N.S.** community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax.

In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live. Through participation in the Green-Schools Programme, we ensure pupils, staff and the wider community are made aware of the importance of taking care of our environment.

Green-Schools, known internationally as Eco-Schools, is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment.

Eco-Schools is operated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) whose main partners include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Green-Schools in Ireland is operated and co-ordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (FEE member for Ireland), in partnership with Local Authorities throughout the country, is supported by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School has been taking part in the Green-Schools initiative since 2004. We have been awarded 8 Green Flags to date. One on the theme of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Litter & Waste), one on Energy, one on Water Conservation, one on Travel, one on Biodiversity, one on Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste, one on Global Citizenship – Energy and one on Global Citizenship – Marine Environment. We are currently working towards our ninth flag, for Global Citizenship - Travel. Information about the Green Schools environmental management and education programme for schools, together with useful resources, can be found on <https://greenschoolsireland.org/themes/>

Aims:

The aim of this policy is to set out clearly what is expected in terms of environmental protection and awareness for all staff and pupils so that our planet is protected and appreciated.

The aim of participation in the Green-Schools Programme is to increase students' awareness of environmental issues through classroom studies and to transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and wider community. A seven-step process sees schools tackling the issues of waste and litter, then energy, water, transport, global citizenship, biodiversity and more. Student involvement is a priority, and the seven steps take a minimum of two years.

Need For The Policy:

There is a need for a policy to be put in place so that clear guidelines are set out for all staff and pupils as to what is expected of them in terms of environmental education, protection and awareness. Instilling an awareness in young children is very important for the future of our planet. Furthermore, conservation of and careful use of precious resources such as electricity, water and heating fuel and the minimisation of waste is more economical and will help to save the school money. This money can be used on educational requirements instead. It is hoped through having an active Green-Schools ethos in the school, environmental issues will be discussed at home and awareness raised, thus encouraging recycling and energy / water / fuel and travel saving in our pupils' homes and in the wider community.

Green-Schools Committee:

Every year a Green-Schools Committee will consist of whole-school participation. Ms. Louise Cromer will lead the committee. The committee will have regular meetings to discuss Green-Schools issues and to implement initiatives. They will endeavour to gain as many Green-Schools flags as possible through participation in each two-year programme and to maintain the existing flags.

Waste:

- All classrooms and the staff room to have recycling bins for paper, plastic, etc.
- Staff to be aware of environmental impact of photocopying and to only photocopy what is needed and to use double-sided copying where possible
- Children to reuse paper where possible
- Children to engage in recycled / "junk art" style projects periodically

Energy:

- Students to engage in units of work relating to energy use and monitoring in SESE
- Solar panels in place
- Lights and heat to be turned off when not needed / not in use
- Computers and whiteboards to be placed on standby when not in use / during breaks
- Staff only to photocopy what they need and to use black ink where possible
- Keep outside doors and windows shut when appropriate to save heat, and therefore fuel and energy while also facilitating appropriate ventilation in classrooms
- Ensure the school is well insulated and that the heating system works efficiently

Water:

- Ensure taps are not left on when not in use
- Each classroom to watch out for leaks
- Ensure that cleaners employed by the school use water prudently and that they use environmentally friendly products

Transport:

Pupils are encouraged to walk, cycle, scoot or use public transport to school where possible. Car-pooling where practicable is also encouraged.

School Garden / Biodiversity:

- To utilise our school garden to the greatest extent and continue to develop it
- To involve pupils, staff, parents and community members in planting and maintaining our school garden and in ways to improve our garden, e.g., where to plan, what to plant, etc.
- Plant native plants and wild flowers that encourage and support the insect population, such as bees and butterflies
- Improve our vegetable garden by planting and harvesting more seasonable vegetables
- Use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment
- Provide varied living conditions in the school garden (insect hotels, hedges, grassy areas and trees) to offer potential food and shelter to our natural biodiversity
- Support our native birds (particularly during the winter months) by providing bird feeders and trees in the school garden
- Students to engage in units of work relating to educating children in growing organic vegetables and fruit, including where food comes from and how to produce it. Links will be made with the local community, e.g., parents, local farmers and gardeners, the Cloughjordan Community Farm, where possible, to support this work

Nature:

- Visits to learn about and explore nature / wildlife/ Natural Heritage Areas locally, e.g., Knocknacree Woods, Scohaboy Bog, etc.
- Natural materials will be utilised, where possible, for Art and Craft Activities and pupils will participate in any related workshops that may be offered locally

Curricular Activities:

Many aspects of environmental awareness will be taught in the form of explicit lessons which will complement the Green-Schools activities taking place throughout the school in relation to litter and waste, energy, water, travel, biodiversity and marine environment. The themes can be integrated into many different subjects easily.

The following are some examples of where the Green-Schools programme can be linked to curricular work:

SPHE - promotion of personal development and wellbeing, citizenship and social / personal responsibility, communication / co-operation with others, media awareness

Art - creation of posters, murals, signs, logos, mascots, water as a medium for art.
Information Technology – creating graphs and charts, using spreadsheets, designing signs and posters etc., carrying out research, use of interactive websites, sending emails / letters in relation to environmental issues, doing surveys, raising awareness through school website / emails / newsletter etc.

English - debates, poetry, essays, Green Code, signs, newsletter, letters

Geography - The water cycle, the water treatment process, rivers, lakes, oceans of Ireland and the world, climate change, global warming, using maps, coordinates, symbols and keys

History - change in water quality and consumption over time, change in packaging / litter / consumer trends over time, relate to changes in lifestyles and society

Science - pollution, properties of water, water quality sampling, water experiments

Maths - charts and graphs measuring volume, capacity, interpreting surveys

Useful resources

Resources to support promotion and implementation of this policy can be found on

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/themes/>

http://www.energyineducation.ie/Energy_In_Education/Information_for_Schools/Resources_and_links/Top_ten_energy_tips_factsheet.pdf

http://www.energyineducation.ie/Energy_In_Education/Information_for_Schools/Resources_and_links/index.html

<https://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/>

Evaluation:

The effectiveness of this policy can be judged from the following indicators:

- A litter-free, clean school environment
- Reduced bills for electricity, heating fuel, water and waste disposal
- The retention of the current Green Flags and the obtaining of further Green Flags

Review:

This policy will be reviewed as and when is required.

Ratification:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Cloughjordan No.1 N.S.

on 13th June 2023

*Signed: Gary Paulsen
(Chairperson of Board of Management)*