

GREEN SCHOOL POLICY

It is the policy of Kildcleagh national School N.S. to foster in the children love, respect and appreciation of all living things in their environment and to become active agents in the conservation of environment for future generations. Participating in the Green-Schools – a European educational programme, we hope to promote responsible behaviour among the children, their parents and the wider community.

Aims

1. To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal life style and participation in collective environmental decision making.
2. To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, European and Global Communities.
3. To acquire critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.
4. Through explanation, investigation and hands-on experiences the children will acquire skills to help care for our environment both now and in the future.

INTRODUCTION

In 2004 Kildcleagh N.S. was awarded its first prestigious Green Flag by An Taisce. It was awarded for measures taken to reduce waste and knowledge on waste management. It was a great honour for the school, its pupils, teachers, parent body and the school community to receive this award and it marked the culmination of a lot of hard work by all concerned over a number of years. As well as being presented with the Green Flag, which is flown at the school entrance, each qualifying school was also granted permission to use the Green Schools' Logo on school stationery.

Every school that has been granted the Green Flag is reviewed every two years. During the review the school must show that it has maintained the achievements of the previous two years and built on them by expanding its original programme and meeting new targets. Since then we have worked on themes- Water Management, Energy, Travel and Bio-Diversity. We are now working on Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste.

Theme 1: Litter

- Our school has a litter rota to maintain the yards.
- Pupils help to tidy up their classroom at the end of each day.
- Senior pupils monitor the bathrooms
- Waste bread is put in the hen bin.
- Apple cores etc, are placed in the compost bin.
- Other rubbish is disposed of in the recycle bin or landfill.
- Paper is shredded and pupils can take this home for animal bedding.
- We have collection of recycling and general waste fortnightly
- We organise clothes collections to supplement school funds

What improvements has the Litter Policy brought about?

- An overall reduction of non-organic waste.
- A cleaner and healthier environment overall.
- An increase in re-use of paper and re-cycling.

Policy on Paper Re-cycling:

Before photocopying – Do you really need it?

Photocopying both sides of the page

Write notes on the back of old letter/pages

Save old paper for art and use recyclable materials for Art & Craft where possible

Use re-cycled paper where possible

Return used printer cartridges for re-cycling and get cartridges re-filled.

Recommendations to Pupils

Use pages efficiently. Keep old copies as jotters. Re-use photocopy sheets until both sides are used. Remember paper is made from trees and trees help our environment.

Theme 2: Electricity

Switch off those lights if you don't need them! Lighting is generally cost effective – fluorescent type in all classrooms.

Recommendations

That a child in each class be assigned the task of switching off all lights at breaktime and before going home in the evening. - Energy Detectives. Also the Hot water switch after Aret clean up.

Theme 3: Water

Water conservation measures were installed in the school comprising displacement bags in the cisterns, percussion taps in the sinks in bathrooms. Taps are turned off promptly after use when washing up after art etc.

Theme 4: Travel

- Our school continues with 4F days every month weather permitting, parents and pupils and sometimes even pets meet at the shop and walk the 1km to school.
- After Easter children are encouraged to cycle to school if possible
- Cycle safety workshops are invited to the school every two years – “Cycle Sense”.

Theme 5 – Bio-Diversity

- We have regular field trips to Clara Bog
- We have a meadow habitat and stream to the rear of the school
- We have bird feeders, a hedgehog hotel and bird boxes.

Theme 6 – Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste (Current flag)

- Conducted a Global Awareness Survey -3rd to 6th
- Completed the Blue Star –EU membership project
- Designed posters to promote correct usage of recycling facilities at the old school
- Learn about “Fair Trade” and where our food comes from.

The Outdoor Environment

- Planting flower boxes
- Feeding birds
- Planting trees

Curriculum

Care of and respect for the environment is cross curricular; Geography, Religion, English, History and S.P.H.E. The S.P.H.E. Volume of the New Curriculum states that children should be taught to:

“Appreciate the environment and develop a sense of individual and community responsibility for caring for the Environment and being custodians of the Earth for future generations.” Children are taught by example and school alone cannot solve all the problems of the environment. Children should be taught not to litter from a very early age. Parents too are educated or re-educated as required.

In teaching any subject the New Curriculum recommends beginning with the children’s own experiences and environment. So the classroom work undertaken in Environmental Studies will always have its primary focus on the Home & School Environment and on the Green Schools Project.

We may not be able to solve the problems of the world but we can strive to get our own ‘patch’ in order.

Methods of transmitting information

A “Green Flag” Notice Board in a prominent position has been set aside within the school and the contents of this Board can be viewed and read by pupils, teachers, ancillary staff and visitors to the school. The school website has a Section dedicated to Green Flag work and it also informs them of the 4F rota.

Our Commitment

We will

- Put our litter in the proper bins.
- Turn off unnecessary lights.
- close all doors when we leave rooms
- reduce our litter
- make sure that all taps are turned off
- compost
- not waste paper
- try to cycle or walk to school more
- carpool
- reduce our waste
- follow our recycled products to their proper end

Green-Schools Committee – 5th /6th class & Ms. Leslie

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management at a board meeting on 01/04/2019.
It will be revised / updated as needed.

Signed: Deam Farrelly (Chairperson)

Date: 1st 4th 19,