



Ballymore National School

Ballymore, Dunfanaghy,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

School Roll No: 18250W

Telephone: (074) 9136255

Mobile: 0861548101

Email: ballymoreschool@yahoo.co.uk

Charity Number: 20202358

**Under the Patronage of the Church of Ireland
Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.**

Sustainability Policy

Rationale:

Ballymore National School aims to become a sustainable school by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into many areas of the curriculum, instilling a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment and participating in Green Schools. We will aim to lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

Aims:

By introducing this policy, the school hopes:

- To become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments
- To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. Recycling, energy and water
- To develop a responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment
- 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.

- To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, European and Global Communities.
- To acquire open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment.
- Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences the children will acquire skills to help care for our environment immediately and have a long-term impact
- To understand the actions that people can have on the environment

Procedures and Guidelines:

How to reduce the school's ecological footprint...

Energy:

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school through participation in Green Schools.

Waste:

- To minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.

Biodiversity:

- To utilise our garden area to its full extent and continue to develop it.
- To involve whole school community members in maintenance of school garden.

Water:

- To reduce the water consumption within the school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To monitor water usage and report wastage.

Implementation:

The school will continuously participate in Green Schools and work towards obtaining Green Flags. The whole school community will be involved in the work of the Green Schools Committee through sharing of regular updates in classrooms, the school newsletter and on school notice boards.

Energy:

- Promote a 'switch off and save' rule for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling particularly when leaving the classroom to go the yard.
- Students to engage in units of work relating to energy in SESE curricular lessons.
- Pupils (and adults in the junior room) will act as classroom energy monitors ensuring that all appliances are completely switched off when not being used in an effort to conserve energy.
- The school delivers an annual report with energy saving plans to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Waste:

- Students are consistently reminded to dispose of waste and recycled products in the appropriate manner.
- Food waste is disposed daily and transferred to the correct bin.
- Paper into recycling bins.
- Use recycled paper for printer/photocopier where possible
- Promote the reuse of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

- Recycling bins provided in all classrooms, staff rooms and the school office. Waste bins are also provided and have black bags. Children and staff are encouraged to dispose of their waste correctly.
- A compostable waste bin is provided in the staff room. Waste from this bin is placed in the compost bin located on the school grounds.

Biodiversity:

- Consult local community members on ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant).
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining our gardens.
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens
- Improve our outdoor natural environment, by planting native trees
- 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 seasonal vegetables
- Use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment
 - Provide varied living conditions in the school garden (insect hotels, walls, 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.

Water:

- Remind students and staff regularly the importance of turning off the tap when water is flowing.
- Students to engage in units of work relating to water conservation in SESE curricular areas.
- The school harvests rainwater using a water butt which is located in the courtyard.

Other Initiatives:

Activities and information campaigns such as the following are currently running within the school:

Awards/Classroom initiatives:

- We are currently working as a whole school towards obtaining the Green Flag for Global Citizenship Litter and Waste.
- We take part in the Heritage in Schools initiative.
- We incorporate a local beach clean up as part of our annual sports day activities.
- We take part in the Picker Pals initiative.
- We take part in the Incredible Edibles programme regularly.

Recycling:

Recycling Paper Recycling Bins:

- A recycling bin for paper is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that any waste paper will be recycled.

Litter Bins -General Rubbish:

- A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e. left over pieces of food, floor dirt, old crayons etc. and this is emptied on a daily basis.

Compost Bins:

- A compost bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of compostable materials.
- The staffroom is also equipped with a compost bin in order to set a good example to the younger members of the school and to reinforce the message that everyone is doing his/her part in caring for the environment.

Lunchboxes:

- It is encouraged that whatever comes in the child's lunchbox goes home in the lunchbox - i.e. a yoghurt pot, a wrapper as it dramatically cuts down on the schools waste. Pupils are encouraged to use a reusable drinks container daily.

School Lunches:

- The school lunches arrive daily in large plastic containers. Teachers distribute the sandwiches at break and lunchtimes. This approach reduces paper and plastic wastage as lunches are not individually wrapped.

Re-Use:

- Children are encouraged to take their waste home with them so as to cut down on the volume that the school actually produces. Staff will keep recyclable items for art materials and Aistear i.e. cardboard rolls, cardboard, paper, tinfoil, recycled bottle tops. Parents are encouraged to send in recyclable materials for junk art in Aistear.

Email, Google Forms and WhatsApp:

- In so far as possible, parents will be texted or sent school information via email or Google Form instead of sending out individual letters with each child. This cuts down greatly on the amount of paper being used by the school.

Clothes Bank:

- To encourage recycling and support fundraising the school has a clothes bank located on the school grounds.

Green Flag:

- The school has been awarded the following Green Flags: Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel and Biodiversity.

- The school is now working towards the next Green Flag; Global Citizenship Litter and Waste.
- It is the aim of the school to continue working on renewing the previous themes while simultaneously working on efforts for the new flag.

Curriculum:

- The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students.
- Environmental / Green issues are key elements of both S.E.S.E. and S.P.H.E.
- The school community will work together to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world-views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living by teaching sustainability.
- A cross curricular approach will be taken to the teaching of sustainability.

Success Criteria:

The school wide implementation of this policy will ensure:

- Continuous participation in the Green Schools programme and the aspiration to be rewarded further Green Schools' flags.
- Continuous improvement, development and use of the school gardens.
- Children will participate in lessons throughout the year on areas of sustainability in the S.E.S.E. curriculum.

Roles and Responsibility:

The following people have particular responsibilities for aspects of this policy:

- School Staff - teaching and auxiliary
- Parents/guardians
- Pupils
- Board of Management

Ratification and Review

This Sustainability Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on

_____.

This policy will be reviewed in 2026 or earlier should the need arise.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Principal

Review: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Principal