



GREEN SCHOOLS POLICY

Policy ratified by Board of Management: 26/11/2018

Date of Review: 05/06/2019

Next review due: 24th September 2025

**School Patron: The Right Rev. Dr. Paul Colton,
Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

School Address: Knocknabohilly, Kinsale, Co Cork, P17 AF10

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Chairperson: Reverend Eugene Griffin

Principal: Ms Jill Horan

Rationale:

It is the policy of St Multose NS to foster in the children a love, respect and appreciation of all living things and their environment. We aim to embed in the children the importance of the conservation of environment for future generations. Through participating in the Green-Schools – a European educational programme, we hope to promote responsible behaviour among the children and the wider community. Education for sustainable development should give pupils a greater understanding of both natural and human systems through a range of immediate environmental experiences that engage their senses, emotions and thinking. It should enable the school community to develop a life ethic that values all people and the natural environment. It should further allow them to become aware of the actions that they ought to pursue in order to live more sustainably now and in the future. The implementation of this policy should therefore contribute to and support the provision of a pleasant and socially responsible environment.

Our current theme is Global Citizenship: Energy

As stated in the Global Citizenship Energy Handbook, page 2 (An Taisce), actions and targets should be focused around:

- Raising awareness of how the climate connects us to people and places all over the world
- Promoting and facilitating 'Active Citizenship'
- Integrating the Global Citizenship Energy ethos into your wider Green-Schools programme
- Aim to make further improvement in the energy management in your school

There are seven essential steps to the Green Schools programme. These are:

1. Forming a committee
2. Carrying out an environmental Review
3. Drafting an action Plan
4. Monitoring and Evaluation
5. Curriculum Work
6. Informing and Involving
7. Green Code

While the majority of the work is directed towards the current theme, St. Multose National School is committed to maintaining its progress for all themes previously explored.

Litter and Waste

- To have bins in each classroom to divide rubbish into recycling and waste for landfill
- To have a compost bin in each classroom to reduce the waste being sent to landfill
- To use reusable lunchboxes and water bottles
- To engage with Transition Town Kinsale initiatives and/or activities
- To eliminate plastic drinking straws from the school

- To reduce the quantity of plastic packaging used
- To raise awareness of the importance of managing litter and waste in a sustainable way
- To engage with reusing materials during art lessons and other school activities
- To re-use single sided paper, print and photocopy on both sides

Energy

- To turn off lights, computers, IWBs, and other electrical items when not in use
- To use heating only when and where necessary
- To turn on water heaters only when absolutely necessary
- To raise awareness of the importance of reducing energy usage and the environmental implications of this saving

Water

- To turn off taps, reduce water usage in toilets and to use harvested water where possible in the school garden
- To use eco-friendly cleaning products throughout the school, where possible. Every effort has been made to review our use of cleaning products with the view to using environmentally friendly products, and where cost effective, these substitutions will be made.
- To raise awareness of the importance of reducing water consumption and of using eco-friendly cleaning products

Travel

- To encourage an increase in the number of families walking, cycling, taking the bus and car-pooling to and/or from school
- To facilitate parents who are interested in car-pooling to contact each other
- To improve pupils' safety, health and fitness
- To promote sustainable forms of transport to and/or from school through acknowledgement, competitions and surveys
- To develop pupils' road safety awareness

Biodiversity

- To monitor the wildlife coming to our school grounds
- To manage our class habitat
- To understand the relationship between the other themes and biodiversity
- To explore the biodiversity in the local environment
- To inform parents and the wider community of the things we do to foster a love for our world and our responsibility to maintain it

Curricular Activities:

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:

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

Gaeilge: amhráin, póstaíocht, drámaíocht

Geography: The water cycle, the water treatment process, rivers, lakes, oceans of Ireland and the world, climate change and 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

STEM: pollution, properties of water, water quality sampling, water experiments, constructing charts and graphs, capacity, interpreting surveys

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, junk art- reusing materials

Information Technology: creating graphs and charts, using spreadsheets, designing signs and posters, carrying out research, use of interactive websites, sending emails / letters in relation to environmental issues, carrying out surveys, etc.

Signed: _____
Green Schools Coordinators

Signed: _____

Principal

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson of the BOM