



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

SUSTAINABILTY POLICY STATEMENT

Ratified by the Board of Management: 24th September 2025

School Patron: The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Registered Charity Number: 20112844

Tel: 021 477 4106/086 037 0254

Email: stmultose@gmail.com

Roll number: 14726C

www.stmultosens.ie

Principal: Ms Jill Horan

Chairperson: Reverend Eugene Griffin

Rationale

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 - www.gov.ie - School Sector Climate Action Mandate (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 our school.

Purpose

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

St Multose NS Vision, Mission, and Core Values

- Our school's vision is to cultivate a nurturing environment where every student is empowered to excel academically, socially, and personally, fostering a lifelong love for learning and a commitment to making positive contributions to society.
- Our school's mission is to provide a dynamic and inclusive education that celebrates diversity, promotes critical thinking, and instils a strong sense of responsibility towards oneself and others. Through innovative teaching practices and a supportive community, we aim to inspire our students to become compassionate leaders who embrace challenges with resilience and empathy.
- Our school's values are deeply rooted in excellence in education, care, equality, community, and respect. We strive to uphold these core principles in all aspects of school life, ensuring that every member of our community feels valued, supported, and respected.

Our commitment to sustainability, environmental awareness, and climate action aligns seamlessly with our core values. We believe that by fostering a culture of responsibility and stewardship, we can empower our students to become proactive agents of change in safeguarding our planet for future generations. Through interdisciplinary learning experiences and community partnerships, we integrate environmental education into our curriculum, promoting sustainable practices and encouraging students to explore innovative solutions to global challenges. In doing so, we reinforce our dedication to excellence, care, equality, and respect, while fostering a strong sense of community and collectivism and a responsibility towards building a more sustainable and equitable world.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement. It clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school, and its relationship to the vision and mission of the school.
- Our school 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 with the principles of sustainable development.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate at

all levels.

- Our school carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our school 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

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, offering a well-defined and controlled way for schools to integrate environmental issues into their curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school.

- *Our school is part of the Green Schools Programme.*

Our school was awarded flags for the following themes: Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, and Global Citizen Litter and Waste. We are currently working towards our Global Diversity Energy flag.

Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students.

Our Green Schools Committee serves as the driving force behind fostering sustainability and environmental awareness within educational institutions. Its purpose is multifaceted, aiming to achieve several key objectives: In essence, the purpose of having a Green Schools Committee is to inspire, educate, and empower the school community to become stewards of the environment.

By championing sustainability initiatives and fostering a culture of environmental consciousness, the committee helps create a greener, more resilient future for current and future generations.

- Our school engages with SEAI Education & Youth Programme's curriculum-linked energy Resources, pupil Workshops and teacher CPD [Schools | Community Energy | SEAIhttps://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/](https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/schools/)
- Our school engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools to monitor and report energy consumption. Our solar panels were installed in July 2025.
- We intend to reduce energy consumption by 2030 by 50% of the agreed baseline. Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.

- Our school has comprehensive policies in place with respect to water conservation, waste, food waste, single-use plastics and energy
- Our school resources are procured and utilised, taking into consideration their impact on the environment.
- Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning, gardening and polytunnel use, nature walks, ecology trips and our ample outdoor space.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity, such as planting apples trees and having a wildflower meadow.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport, including where possible, walking and cycling to school.
- Our school engages with the Safe Routes to School programme: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>
- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental education such as ECO UNESCO

Social Sustainability

- Our school 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 solving community problems at local level.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- Our school 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 training in conflict resolution, 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. We have an evolving sustainability team primarily led by students.
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively

- demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practice with sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on and promotes the principles of a circular economy

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, along with a mutual regard and respect for fellow students, and positive social interaction and relationships.
- Our school ethos, in tandem with the curriculum, strives to prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society.
- Our school demonstrates a commitment to community engagement and encourages the community's involvement with the school.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community.

Teacher Competence

- Our teachers are supported in building their own capacity in ESD, such as ESD CPD, and engagement with other providers of CPD programmes working in this area.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported by participating in peer-to-peer learning activities
- Our students are encouraged and supported by undertaking action-oriented projects.
- Our school has a Student Council/ Sustainability Committee/ Green Team who are involved in decisions about how our school improves, promotes and implements changes.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects such as Tidy Towns or other local community organisations working in this area such as the horticulture course in Kinsale College of Further Education.

Goals

Our school will aim to achieve a Green Flag for Global Citizenship (Energy) by 2026. We also plan to develop our polytunnel to create a business opportunity for our students, specifically the students in our autism class. The produce we

grow will be sold at the Kinsale Market to fundraise for our Síológa classroom.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 24/09/25. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every 2 years.

_____ Date: _____

Signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Management