

*John The Baptist Community School*  
**Sustainability Statement**



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## **Introductory Statement**

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 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 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.

## **Rationale**

John the Baptist Community School aims to become a sustainable school by integrating sustainability, including environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects, across the curriculum and thereby establishing a sense of ownership and pride in our school, community and wider world. The purpose of this Sustainability statement is to outline how our school promotes sustainability and climate action through our actions and activities.

### **Relationship to the ethos of the school**

Sustainability and caring for the environment are central to the ethos of John the Baptist Community School. They are embedded into our curriculum across all year groups through the teaching of the various subject areas. John The Baptist Community School strives to be a leader in promoting sustainable processes and practices so as to ensure a healthy environment for both current and future generations. Sustainability links strongly to the values in our mission statement. Through social engagement, volunteering and by students making a positive contribution to society we are developing mutual trust and respect and facilitating the personal growth and development of those in our community.

### **Objectives**

Learning and teaching should take place in a school that protects and preserves the environment and creates a sustainable school for all stakeholders. By introducing this statement, the school hopes to:

- Reduce energy inefficiencies in school.
- Promote greater awareness of sustainability in our school community.
- Encourage promotion of a single use plastic free school.
- Engage the support of parents/guardians, students and staff in delivering our sustainability policy.
- Engage with external agencies e.g. SEAI to identify sustainability opportunities for our school community.
- Engage with relevant organisations regarding funding for sustainability projects.
- Give clear direction for sustainability projects in the school. (e.g. Take 1 Week)
- Complement and inform our School Improvement Planning.
- Promote Green School initiatives in our school community.

### **Whole School Approach to Sustainability**

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability 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 co-ordinated effectively in our school.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- Our subject schemes of work endeavour to align with the principles and goals of sustainable development (SDG's).
- Our school engages in self-assessment of our teaching practices in sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network ([www.ISSN.ie](http://www.ISSN.ie)). This network provides a forum for teachers and students to work in partnership to accelerate climate action, address the loss of nature, and prioritise sustainability in the Irish Education System.
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD, including registration 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, controllable way for schools to take environmental issues from the

curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school. Our school has a Green Schools team comprising of staff, students and caretakers. Their role is to address these environmental issues in the context of John the Baptist CS.

We have 5 green flags in the areas of:

1. Litter and waste
  2. Water
  3. Energy
  4. Travel
  5. Biodiversity
- Our school engages with a global citizenship education. We were awarded the diplomatic passport in 2024, by the Worldwise Global Schools programme. The Global Passport Award is an EU recognised quality mark, acknowledging and celebrating the great work happening in schools in GCE and is facilitated by the Department of Foreign affairs.
  - Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning e.g. Poly tunnel, horticulture LCA & TY module and outdoor gym.
  - Our school has a comprehensive and cohesive recycling plan in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials where possible.
  - Our school promotes sustainable transport e.g. staff carpooling.
  - Our school engages with programmes that support and promote environmental education, for example, Take 1 Week.

### **Social Sustainability**

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of gender equity.
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to address real world social issues, for example through YSI and BT Young Scientist.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community. Students engage in a Take 1 week for sustainability on an annual basis.
- The school endeavours to taken into consideration and accommodate needs of all students, through a whole school approach in conjunction with the SEN department and other relevant parties e.g. SENO.
- Our school is committed to the use of Restorative Practice with a focus on creating a relational school community through empathy and connection.

## **Economic Sustainability**

- An ethos of co-operation, collaboration is modelled in our school's allocation of its resources within and among departments.
- Students are involved in the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school. Student voice is promoted through student surveys, focus groups and the student council.
- Our school's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles. Our engagement in the Fr.Daly Food Appeal, The Christmas Shoebox Appeal and The Novas Charity are examples of this.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard by the caretakers with best practice in sustainability in mind e.g. automatic shut off lights, heavy/light flushing systems, solar panels.

## **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. (e.g. Colour Run for Holi festival).
- Our school demonstrates a commitment to community engagement and encourages the community's involvement with the school. Initiatives include paired-reading, computers for older adults and LCA and TY work experience. The local community regularly uses our walkway, astro-turf and gym. The school is used for community meetings/clubs (e.g. SVP, bridge-club).

## **Teacher Competence**

- Our teachers are supported in building their own capacity in ESD. In 2023 the teachers engaged their first Take One week and Oide Sustainability Leadership Workshop.

## **Student Competence**

- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action orientated projects e.g. Young Social Innovators, BT Young Scientist, Junk Kouture and other school-based projects.
- We aim for our students to become exposed to SDGs across the curriculum.

### John The Baptist C.S. 3 Year Sustainability plan

2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New waste management bins.</li> <li>• Create a sustainability policy.</li> <li>• Complete a sustainability self-assessment tool with relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Take One Week.</li> <li>• May Day for sustainability.</li> <li>• Create good habits for saving energy.</li> <li>• Receive green flag for biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address results of self-assessment tool which will inform action plan.</li> <li>• Apply for ESD funding in October through the Department for Education.</li> <li>• Take One Week</li> <li>• May Day for sustainability.</li> <li>• Analyse energy consumption in the school and set term targets for reduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take One Week.</li> <li>• May Day for sustainability.</li> <li>• Apply for ESD funding.</li> <li>• Renew Green flags.</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption in line with identified targets.</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global citizenship education passport award.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on analysis aim to reduce our energy usage by 5% from previous year (50% by 2030).</li></ul>	
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## Sustainability Statement

**Reviewed by:**

- Assistant Principals
- Parents Association
- Teachers
- Student Council Members

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

**Principal**

**Board of Management**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ratified by the B.O.M on:** 20/05/24

**Review Date:** 2025