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## **St. Angela's School**

### **Sustainable Environment Policy**

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#### **1. Introductory Statement**

This policy results from the collaboration of the Policy Committee and the Board of Management in order to achieve a Sustainable Environment Policy.

#### **2. Rationale**

St. Angela's aims to become a sustainable school, reducing our ecological footprint by adopting sustainable practices in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into many areas of school life, 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 developing the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

#### **3. Relationship to the Mission Statement/ Characteristic Spirit of the school**

In accordance with the Touchstones of Ursuline Education, St. Angela's encourages a caring and respectful attitude towards the environment. We have a duty to give future generations the knowledge and skills to manage the world's resources wisely.

Education for sustainable development 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 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.

#### 4. Aims of Policy

##### **This policy aims to:**

- Engage students and staff in a wide understanding of the impact of our individual actions on the environment, locally, nationally and globally.
- Promote high standards of care for our school, local community and the wider world.
- Encourage behavioural changes, increase participation in and communication of environmental responsibility.
- Minimise any adverse impact of our school on the environment.

#### 5. Policy Implementation

##### **Green-Schools Committee:**

St. Angela's School has a Green-Schools Committee. The primary goal of the committee is to try to improve the school's environment, both inside and out. It works at building a pleasant environment for the whole school community.

St. Angela's School will endeavour to implement this policy by means of the following:

- **Legal compliance:** It complies with relevant Irish and EU environmental laws, regulations, and directives.
- **Energy conservation:**  
Energy efficiency is increased by continually maintaining and upgrading the school systems, e.g., installing a new boiler with a timer control panel and maintaining the efficiency of other boilers in the school.  
Energy-efficient light bulbs and lighting systems were installed throughout the school in 2017 and LED lights were fitted in February 2023.  
Appliances in the staffroom and practical classrooms e.g. dishwasher and fridge have a high energy efficiency rating.
- **Renewable Energy Sources:** St. Angela's is committed to seeking ways to increase the school's use of renewable energy sources into the future e.g. Schools Photovoltaic Programme.
- **Water Conservation:** Water is conserved using push taps in the sinks in all toilet areas. Practical subjects ensure that every effort is made to conserve water in practical classes. Water fountains have been installed to allow students to refill their reusable water bottles.
- **School Trips and Transport:** St. Angela's School students and staff make use of local amenities which are within walking distance and use public transport when appropriate.  
Reduction in transport-related carbon emissions is promoted by encouraging the use of public transport and cycling/walking when commuting to and from school.
- **Wellbeing of all:** The grounds can be enjoyed by all, for example, through outdoor spaces designated for staff and students to use during lunch. Our school offers large spaces and green areas for the students to enjoy during the day, including picnic benches, large grass areas, orienteering courses and a one kilometre mapped-out walkway.
- **Recycling and Waste Management:** St. Angela's School currently recycles paper, cardboard, plastic, batteries, used garden bulks and compost.  
Waste is segregated and disposed of appropriately.  
In order to conserve paper, the school community is encouraged to print on both sides of paper. The use of whiteboards, MS Teams, VSware and other electronic media reduces the use of paper.  
Recycle bins and general waste bins are clearly labelled and used throughout the school.

Students are encouraged to be responsible and keep classrooms clean by participating in school and classroom rotas. Students also participate in the South-East Community Clean-up Competition and the Climate and Nature Summit for Secondary Schools in Ireland.

## **6. Future Planning**

- Continue our Green-Schools programme involvement on a whole school community basis.
- Maintain an Environment Co-ordinator as a Post of Responsibility.
- Continue to encourage staff to engage in CPD on the topic of Sustainability and the Environment.
- Further promote 'the 3 Rs' (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) and include environmental issues in school assemblies.
- Promote awareness of this policy through the school website, X and Instagram.
- Increase environmental education across the curriculum and in co-curricular activities.
- Encourage participation in environmental competitions and exhibitions.

## **7. Evaluation**

**The effectiveness of this policy can be judged from the following indicators:**

- A litter-free, clean school environment.
- The grounds are well-maintained.
- Further support of biodiversity.
- Reduced bills for electricity, heating fuel, water and waste disposal.

This Policy is embedded across all subject departments. This policy is in support of our Mission Statement and the holistic development of our students. It will be reviewed regularly.

Ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Management \_\_\_\_\_