

Environmental/Sustainability Policy



Web site: www.stpaulsmonasterevin.ie

ST PAUL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT				
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Rev 1	11-09-2024		3 years	
Rev 2				
Rev 3				
Rev 4				
Rev 5				
Rev 6				

St Paul's Secondary School Mission Statement

St. Paul's Secondary School provides an inclusive climate of learning based on the key value of **respect** within a nurturing and stimulating educational setting. We are a secondary school of the community for the community. Each student is expected to strive to fulfil his or her potential. Each person is encouraged to develop personally, academically, spiritually, socially and culturally.

“When we aspire, believe and achieve, together we can succeed.”

St Paul's Secondary School Ethos

St. Paul's Secondary School is a Catholic voluntary co-educational secondary school under the Trusteeship of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. St Paul's is a welcoming and inclusive school. It is the secondary school of the community, for the community. It is the natural extension of the family with brothers and sisters, neighbours and relations learning, sharing and growing together.

The school strives to maintain and promote an atmosphere of Christian care, concern and respect where our students grow into well-adjusted men and women. The school has a strong Christian tradition, in which the Sisters of Mercy have had, and continue to have, an important role.

Inbuilt structures and procedures in the daily life of the school offer the students opportunities to develop personal initiative and responsibility, together with a questioning mind, which will help them assess, with a critical eye, the wide and varied values of the world they live in today. In school they also learn the importance of personal commitment, punctuality, regular attendance, planning for the future and working as a team.

At St Paul's the holistic development of each student is supported, promoted, encouraged and celebrated. On completion of their education students will be prepared for life, further education, work and the varied and exciting challenges of adult life. In preparation for life, students at St Paul's will be taught essential habits, skills and values. Christian values and the key principles of “respect” and “doing one's best” will remain central to what we are and all we do.

Through its curriculum, teachers and timetable, the school will provide a comprehensive education for its students. Subjects will be offered at all levels and programmes and specific courses of study will be tailored to the students' needs. A wide range of additional academic opportunities will be afforded to students. Support, advice and guidance on further education and careers will be extensive.

Through its unique atmosphere, the school will help students develop into well-adjusted men and women. Through its pastoral care and guidance, students and their families will be supported through difficult times. The provision of physical education, sports and the promotion of healthy living will remain paramount. Through extra-curricular, subject and programme related activities students will have many opportunities to showcase their talents, perform or experience the arts. The School Charter sets out the conditions and the expectations for all the school partners to achieve St Paul's Mission Statement through the school ethos.

St Paul's Environmental Policy

The environmental policy applies to all teachers, students and employees of St Paul's Secondary School. It should be noted by parents.

St Paul's is committed to educating our students about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We recognize our responsibility to ensure that environmental awareness is an intrinsic part of the day to day running of the school.

Aims of the Policy:

This policy aims to;

- Promote environmental awareness and conservation among the school community, and to encourage all members of the community to actively participate in solving environmental issues affecting the school.
- To reduce any waste of energy and resources within the school community and therefore reduce the school's carbon footprint.
- To promote the concept of 'reduce, re-use, recycle' among the school community.
- To encourage staff and students to examine and interpret the environment through the subject areas of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- To provide students and staff with an appropriate environmental education so that they acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment and skills needed to protect and improve the environment both locally and globally.

Relationship to the mission of St Paul's

'When We Aspire, Believe And Achieve, Together We Can Succeed'

At St Paul's, we are committed to educating our students about environmental concerns and the importance of living sustainably. We aspire to be people of integrity, who acknowledge our responsibility to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school.

We believe in preparing our students for life as citizens of a global society, recognizing the need to respond to the pandemic of poverty and climate change.

We achieve in these goals, by working together as a school community to be aware of, and reduce our carbon footprint and global impact and live as a more sustainable community.

Green Schools Program:

The Green Schools program is coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce. The aim of the program is to promote long-term, whole-school action for the environment. It is student led, with involvement from the wider community. Currently, 94% of primary and post-primary schools are involved in Green Schools, which has been running for 25 years. (www.greenschoolsireland.org)

St Paul's has been involved with Green Schools for a number of years and previously received the Litter and Waste green flag. However, since moving into the new premises in Moore Abbey Demense in 2023, St Paul's is reapplying for the Green Schools Litter and

Waste flag. There are 10 themes within the Green Schools program and schools work towards achieving a flag in each area. The flags must be reapplied for every 2 years.

Student involvement is central to the running of the program in schools. The student led Green Schools committee aims to increase student's awareness of environmental issues, and transfer this knowledge into positive action within the school and the wider community.

Implementation of the Policy:

The aims of this policy will be implemented through;

- Green Flag activities: By using the Green Flag Action Plan as a practical means of involving students and staff, and by monitoring its goals on a regular basis. The re-award of the Flag depends on the implementation of the Action Plans by the College community in relation to each flag.
- School buildings maintenance: Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practice in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Energy conservation: By striving to reduce St Paul's use of electricity e.g. switch off lights when not in use, use automatic sensor switches, programming computers to switch off at a fixed time after logout.
- Heating and lighting: By increasing energy efficiency through upgraded insulation, efficient ventilation, automatically closing doors, thermostats on radiators, maintaining the efficiency of the boiler and heating system, by using energy efficient light bulbs and lighting systems.
- Renewable Energy Sources: By seeking ways to increase St Paul's use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy. St Paul's is equipped with PV panels for electricity production. Extra units of electricity generated are sold back to the ESB.
- Recycling and Conservation: By recycling efficiently. St Paul currently recycles paper, cardboard, single use plastic bottles, glass, batteries, printer cartridges and toner cartridges and electrical/computer equipment. The science department has a composter where food waste is recycled.
- By conserving paper: We are encouraged to print on both sides of the paper. Every teacher has a limited amount of photocopying credits to try and limit the amount of paper usage. Teacher's notes and homework is accessible via google classroom. Where appropriate, homework can be done online.
- Waste Management: By segregating waste appropriately and disposing of each type of waste correctly. Litter control is an integral part of this, students must be encouraged to be responsible in disposing of their litter and keep classrooms clean. St Paul's has all bins marked clearly with Recycle/General Waste and in the general purpose hall, there are also bins labeled Organic. Each bin label has an accompanying list of items that may be placed in it.
- Water Conservation: Continued introduction of sensor-flush cisterns which save water, storage of rainwater for ecology projects and for outdoor and indoor plants. The science department are harvesting water from the polytunnels and storing it for reuse. Water harvesting also takes place in the Eden Centre and is used for upkeep of the gardens.
- School Grounds: By keeping the school grounds litter free and recycling waste from them. First year students are on a rota every day after lunch, to pick up litter throughout the school.

- **Purchasing Policy:** As part of the procurement marking scheme, St Paul's takes into account the environmental aspects of the acquisition, use and disposal of goods and services, when these are purchased e.g. switching to recycled paper, purchasing Fair Trade goods and taking "food miles" into account and purchase from local suppliers where possible, for cleaning materials, use green or eco-friendly detergents where possible.
- **Surroundings:** By encouraging students to grow trees, plants, flowers to enhance their environment and to actively encourage biodiversity. Kildare Tidy Towns committee links in with St Pauls and, depending on availability, provides bulbs to the school for students to plant on the grounds. There is also an area of land which is encouraged to grow wild to encourage biodiversity.
- **Community Links:** The TY students link in with Monasterevin Tidy Towns committee, and carry out litter pick-ups, upcycling and other environmental projects throughout the community.

Achieving Objectives:

In order to achieve the aims of this policy, St Paul's will;

- Liaise with the caretaker, maintenance department and the canteen staff.
- Ensure student responsibility for cleaning up after their own mess.
- Continue to have a Green Schools Committee which engage with the Green Schools program.
- Continue to have an Environmental officer as a middle leadership role of responsibility
- Prioritise the concept of 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle' throughout the school community, dedicating time in form group class throughout the year and highlighting environmental issues at assemblies.
- Promote awareness of environmental/sustainability issues through school social media and a display area in the general purpose hall.
- Encourage participation in competitions which promote environmental awareness, e.g. BT Young Scientist and Technology, Junk Kature, Sci-Fest, YSI.
- Transition Year students will continue to work with Monasterevin's Tidy Towns Committee to carry out projects in the community.
- Include environmental education across the curriculum.