



Coláiste Nano Nagle
Sustainability Policy
2026

Introduction

This Sustainability Policy Statement has been prepared as part of the School Sector Climate Action Mandate and in keeping with the principles and themes of the Department of Education's ESD to 2030: Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

The policy is also informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4.7, which aims to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Coláiste Nano Nagle recognises that sustainability is a whole school responsibility. As a school community, we are committed to promoting environmental awareness, climate action, social justice, responsible use of resources, student voice, inclusion and care for our common home.

As a DEIS school, Coláiste Nano Nagle recognises that sustainability must include climate justice, inclusion, equality of access, student voice and practical local action. Our sustainability work will therefore support environmental responsibility while also promoting wellbeing, participation, belonging and opportunity for all students.

This policy reflects our school context and will be developed and reviewed in collaboration with students, staff, parents and guardians, the Board of Management and the wider school community.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement is to outline how Coláiste Nano Nagle promotes sustainability and climate action through our teaching and learning, school practices, student leadership, community engagement and daily actions.

Sustainability can be defined as the ability to exist and develop without depleting natural resources for the future. Our school recognises that sustainability includes environmental, social, cultural and economic responsibility.

2. Scope

Sustainability is a community issue and applies to all members of Coláiste Nano Nagle, including:

- School Management
- Students
- Teachers
- Special Needs Assistants
- Ancillary staff
- Caretaker
- Parents and guardians
- Board of Management
- Visitors and community partners

Parents and guardians are asked to support the aims of this policy where possible. The Board of Management will ensure that decisions made in respect of the school align, where feasible, with this Sustainability Policy Statement.

3. Vision, Mission and Values

School Mission

Coláiste Nano Nagle is a Christian community which welcomes students in the tradition of Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Order. A primary aim of our school is the pursuit of academic excellence. We seek to develop the full potential of each person: intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social, physical and creative.

To achieve this, the school strives to provide an educational environment suited to the needs of each individual, within the demands of a changing world.

Trusteeship and CEIST Ethos

Coláiste Nano Nagle is a voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST, Catholic Education Irish Schools Trust. The school is conducted in accordance with the CEIST Charter Values.

The CEIST vision is to create a compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The CEIST mission is to provide a holistic education in the Catholic tradition.

The CEIST values are:

- Promoting Spiritual and Human Development
- Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning
- Showing Respect for Every Person
- Creating Community
- Being Just and Responsible

Our sustainability work reflects these values by encouraging students and staff to care for the environment, act responsibly, respect the dignity of all people, consider the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, and work together for the common good.

Vision for Sustainability

Our school community is committed to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, social justice, inclusion and sustainable living. Inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si: Care for Our Common Home*, and guided by the CEIST values, we aim to empower students to become responsible global citizens who actively contribute to a more sustainable future.

4. Whole School Approach to Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle adopts a whole school approach to sustainability. This means that sustainability is promoted through teaching and learning, school leadership, student participation, daily school operations, policy development and links with the wider community.

Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross curricular theme and will continue to identify opportunities to address sustainability across subjects and programmes. This approach reflects the Department template, which states that schools should embed sustainability across teaching, learning, policies, resources and self-evaluation.

The school will:

- adopt and implement this Sustainability Policy Statement

- promote ESD across subject departments and programmes
- identify opportunities to address sustainability in classroom learning
- align school policies, where appropriate, with sustainable development principles
- encourage staff and students to use resources responsibly
- include sustainability within school self-evaluation where relevant
- keep up to date with national developments in ESD
- promote sustainability through school displays, assemblies, announcements, social media and student led campaigns

5. Alignment with ESD to 2030

Coláiste Nano Nagle supports the vision and priorities outlined in ESD to 2030: Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development. The strategy provides a national framework for embedding sustainability across education and highlights the importance of transforming learning environments, building educator capacity, empowering young people and strengthening local action.

Our school’s sustainability work aligns with the five priority action areas of ESD to 2030:

5.1 Advancing Policy

The school will continue to embed sustainability and climate action within school policies, planning and decision-making processes.

5.2 Transforming Learning Environments

The school aims to create sustainable learning environments where students can “live what they learn” through practical sustainability initiatives, Green Schools activities, biodiversity projects, recycling programmes, sustainable fashion initiatives and responsible daily practices.

5.3 Building Capacities of Educators

Teachers and staff will be supported in developing their understanding of sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development through collaboration, professional learning, reflective practice and participation in relevant CPD opportunities.

5.4 Empowering and Mobilising Young People

The school recognises students as active contributors to sustainability and climate action. Students are encouraged to participate in leadership opportunities including the Green Schools Committee, Student Council, TY sustainability projects, Junk Kouture, LCA tasks and community-based environmental initiatives.

5.5 Accelerating Local Level Actions

The school will continue to strengthen links with local organisations, environmental groups, parents and guardians, local authorities and the wider community in order to support sustainability initiatives and local climate action projects.

6. The Pillars of Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle recognises that sustainability is built on interconnected pillars: environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability and cultural sustainability. These pillars reflect the understanding that caring for the environment cannot be separated from promoting equality, inclusion, responsible use of resources, cultural respect and community wellbeing. As a DEIS school, we recognise that sustainability must also include climate justice, access, participation and support for students and families who may experience disadvantage. Our policy therefore seeks to balance care for the natural world with care for people, communities and future generations. Through this approach, students are encouraged to understand sustainability as a way of thinking and acting that connects local choices with global responsibility.

7. Sustainability in Teaching and Learning

Sustainability is integrated across the curriculum and wider learning experiences, including:

- Science
- Geography
- Home Economics
- Religious Education
- CSPE
- SPHE

- Business Studies
- Art
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Applied

Students are encouraged to:

- explore the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- investigate environmental and social issues
- consider the links between local and global challenges
- participate in action-based and project based learning
- develop critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and problem solving skills
- reflect on justice, equality, responsibility and care for creation
- engage in active citizenship and sustainability projects
- Sustainability will also be promoted through co-curricular and extracurricular initiatives such as Green Schools, Junk Kouture, Science Club, TY projects, LCA tasks, community action projects and awareness weeks.

8. Environmental Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle is committed to reducing its environmental impact and promoting practical climate action.

Green Schools is recognised as an important environmental education programme that supports schools in applying environmental learning to the daily running of the school.

8.1 Green Schools Programme

Our school is part of the Green Schools Programme and has achieved Green Flag awards in areas including recycling, water and energy. The school has a Green Schools Committee made up of staff and students. The role of this group is to promote environmental awareness, support student leadership, encourage sustainable behaviour and lead practical initiatives across the school.

8.2 Waste Reduction and Recycling

The school will:

- promote recycling throughout the school
- provide recycling bins for paper, cardboard, plastics and other materials where possible
- reduce single use plastics
- encourage reusable water bottles
- promote paper reduction and digital communication where possible
- encourage departments to reuse materials where appropriate
- reuse cardboard and materials in subjects such as Art where possible
- continue to support sustainable fashion and reuse through Junk Kouture
- encourage responsible disposal and separation of waste
- support brown bin use in staff canteens, Home Economics rooms and other suitable areas where possible

8.3 Water Conservation

The school will:

- promote responsible use of water
- encourage reporting of leaks
- maintain water saving measures where possible
- use water butts where feasible to support planting and gardening
- raise awareness of water conservation through Green Schools initiatives

8.4 Energy Conservation

The school will:

- encourage staff and students to switch off lights, projectors, computers and electrical equipment when not in use
- use energy efficient practices where feasible
- promote awareness of energy use
- monitor and review energy-saving opportunities
- support practical actions that reduce unnecessary energy consumption

- use low energy settings on photocopiers and computers where available
- remind staff and students to close doors and windows appropriately to reduce heat loss

8.5 Biodiversity

The school will:

- promote biodiversity on the school grounds
- support planting, pollinator friendly areas and outdoor learning
- maintain biodiversity areas where possible
- encourage students to learn about ecosystems, pollinators, climate action and environmental protection
- use the school grounds, outdoor spaces, garden areas and polytunnel as learning opportunities across relevant subject areas
- continue to develop practical projects such as planting, biodiversity areas, nest boxes, school garden work or polytunnel use where feasible

8.6 Sustainable Transport

The school will promote sustainable transport where possible, including walking, cycling, public transport and carpooling. The school will also engage with relevant sustainable travel initiatives where appropriate.

8.7 Sustainable Procurement and Resource Use

The school will aim to consider sustainability when purchasing resources, including reducing waste, reusing materials, using recycled products where feasible and encouraging careful use of school supplies.

9. Social Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle is committed to promoting equality, inclusion, wellbeing, dignity and respect for all members of the school community.

The school will:

- foster a positive and inclusive school culture
- recognise the importance of gender equity and equality

- support students from diverse cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds
- promote the inclusion of students with additional educational needs
- support student wellbeing and mental health
- promote restorative and respectful relationships
- provide opportunities for students to participate in solving local community issues
- prepare students for life as citizens of a global community
- encourage student voice and participation
- promote human rights, social justice, peace and intercultural understanding
- support students and families experiencing disadvantage through existing DEIS, pastoral, SEN, EAL, Guidance, HSCL and SCP structures

10. Economic Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle recognises the importance of responsible, ethical and sustainable use of resources.

The school will:

- model a non competitive ethos of co-operation and sharing of resources
- encourage responsible consumption and reduced waste
- involve students in decision making where appropriate, including through the Student Council and Green Schools Committee
- provide opportunities for students to learn enterprise and small business skills through TY, LCA and other programmes
- maintain school buildings and facilities to as high a standard as possible within available resources
- promote awareness of the circular economy
- encourage ethical and sustainable approaches to fundraising and school activities
- promote reuse of school materials, books, uniforms and resources where appropriate

11. Cultural Sustainability

Coláiste Nano Nagle values cultural diversity, community, identity and belonging.

The school will:

- foster students' self esteem and positive relationships
- promote mutual respect between students, staff, families and the wider community
- prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society
- celebrate cultural diversity within the school through events such as Intercultural Day, themed displays, classroom activities and whole school celebrations
- recognise and respect important religious and cultural events throughout the school year
- encourage community involvement in school life
- support inclusive events, displays, learning opportunities and celebrations
- promote respect for different traditions, languages, backgrounds and identities
- create opportunities for students to share and learn from different cultural experiences

12. Teacher Competence

Teachers and staff will be supported in building their capacity in the area of Education for Sustainable Development.

The school will encourage:

- engagement with ESDrelated CPD
- sharing of good practice between staff
- cross curricular planning for sustainability
- active and participatory teaching approaches
- use of ESD resources and national supports
- integration of sustainability into subject planning where appropriate
- reflective practice linked to sustainable development, inclusion and global citizenship
- engagement with relevant supports such as Green Schools, Oide, SEAI resources, Take 1, WorldWide Global Schools or other appropriate ESD providers

13. Student Competence

Students will be supported to develop the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to take informed action for a sustainable future.

Students will be encouraged to:

- participate in peer-to-peer learning

- undertake action-orientated projects
- take part in Green Schools, Student Council and sustainability initiatives
- engage in TY and LCA sustainability projects
- participate in Junk Kouture and sustainable fashion initiatives
- volunteer for community based sustainability actions
- explore real life problems in the local community
- contribute to awareness campaigns on climate action, waste, biodiversity, water, energy and social justice
- develop leadership, teamwork, creativity, communication and problem solving skills

14. Transition Year, LCA and Student Projects

Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied provide strong opportunities for practical, experiential and action-based sustainability learning.

Students may engage in:

- Green Schools activities
- energy, waste and water audits
- biodiversity projects
- recycling campaigns
- Junk Kouture
- sustainable fashion and upcycling
- environmental awareness events
- community projects
- digital campaigns
- enterprise and circular economy projects
- local sustainability initiatives in Limerick

These programmes support students in developing practical skills, teamwork, creativity, environmental awareness and active citizenship.

15. Community Engagement

Coláiste Nano Nagle recognises that sustainability is strengthened through partnership with the wider community.

The school will seek to work with:

- parents and guardians
- local community groups
- local environmental organisations
- Limerick City and County Council initiatives
- local businesses and education partners
- community clean-up projects
- biodiversity and planting initiatives
- Team Limerick Clean-Up and similar local actions

These partnerships help students connect classroom learning with real-world sustainability challenges and support local action.

16. Goals

During the lifetime of this policy, Coláiste Nano Nagle aims to:

- further reduce waste and single-use plastics
- strengthen recycling systems across the school
- increase student participation in sustainability leadership
- promote reusable bottles and responsible consumption
- reduce paper use through digital communication where possible
- expand biodiversity and planting initiatives
- organise an annual Sustainability Awareness Week
- continue to promote sustainable fashion through Junk Kouture
- support TY and LCA sustainability projects
- maintain and further develop Green Schools work
- integrate sustainability more explicitly into teaching and learning
- strengthen local community partnerships
- review progress through school self-evaluation and student/staff feedback

17. Monitoring and Action Plan

Target Area	Action	Lead Responsibility	Evidence / Monitoring	Timeline
Waste reduction	Promote recycling, reduce single-use plastics and encourage reusable bottles	Green Schools Committee, Management, Caretaking Staff	Bin audits, student feedback, Green Schools records	2026-2027
Paper reduction	Increase use of digital communication and reduce unnecessary photocopying	Management, Teaching Staff	Photocopying data, staff review	Annual
Biodiversity	Develop planting, pollinator-friendly areas and outdoor learning opportunities	Science Department, Green Schools Committee, TY/LCA Teams	Photographs, project records, student reflections	2026-2027
Student leadership	Increase student participation in Green Schools, Student Council and	Green Schools Coordinator, Student Council Link Teacher	Meeting records, campaign evidence, participation numbers	Annual

	sustainability campaigns			
Curriculum integration	Embed SDGs and sustainability across subject planning where appropriate	Subject Departments, Teaching and Learning Team	Subject plans, classroom activities, student work	Annual
Community engagement	Link with local groups for clean-ups, biodiversity and sustainability projects	School Management, HSCL, Green Schools Committee	Records of events, partner feedback, social media/website updates	Annual
Staff capacity	Encourage staff CPD in ESD, Green Schools, Take 1, Oide, SEAI or related areas	School Management, CPD Coordinator	CPD records, staff feedback	Annual
DEIS and inclusion	Ensure sustainability work promotes inclusion, student voice and access for all learners	School Management, SEN/EAL/Guidance/HSCL Teams	Participation records, student voice feedback, DEIS/SSE review	Annual

18. Implementation and Review

This Sustainability Policy Statement was adopted by Coláiste Nano Nagle as part of the School Sector Climate Action Mandate and in keeping with the principles and themes of ESD to 2030.

The policy will be implemented by:

- Board of Management
- School Management
- Green Schools Committee
- Student Council
- teaching staff
- students
- ancillary staff
- parents and guardians where appropriate

The policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required, to ensure that the school continues to improve its work in sustainability and climate action.

Progress will be monitored through:

- Green Schools progress
- student participation
- environmental improvements
- staff and student feedback
- school self evaluation
- review of sustainability goals
- Board of Management oversight

Ratification

This Sustainability Policy Statement was ratified by the Board of Management of Coláiste Nano Nagle on:

Date: 14/05/2026

Signed: *Eddie Burke*

Chairperson, Board of Management

