

Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.



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GREEN SCHOOL POLICY Nov 2022

School Name:	Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny
School Address:	James's Street, Kilkenny
School Details:	CBS Secondary School Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.
School Management:	The Board of Management of CBS Secondary School Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement

Inspired by its founder, CBS Secondary School Kilkenny aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students.

Ethos

As an Edmund Rice School, CBS Secondary School Kilkenny seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Introduction

The Green School Programme is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. The whole school community of CBS Secondary School Kilkenny will work together to address and engage with environmental issues that affect the school and the city of Kilkenny. The main aim is to promote recycling and the responsible use of school facilities. There are a total of eight Green Flags organised into different categories. CBS Secondary School Kilkenny achieved its first Green Flag for litter and waste initiatives in May 2018. In May 2022 the school received a renewal Green flag for Litter & Waste. The school environment can be improved for all of the school community by partaking in this programme. The Green School Programme is a whole school approach, so cross curricular links are an essential part of the initiative.

While developing this policy, due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at CBS Secondary School Kilkenny and particularly to the Wellbeing School Improvement Plan (May 2018) and the Whole School Guidance Plan 2022.

General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been developed in light of this legislation.

Rationale

In CBS Secondary School Kilkenny we care greatly about environmental issues, and we are part of the *An Taisce* Green School Programme. This involves setting up a committee of teachers, students and other staff with the support of the Parents Council. The aim is to make environmental awareness, leadership and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school. These efforts are rewarded through *An Taisce* Green Flags for schools.

Aims and Objectives

- To understand the impact of the actions of people on the environment.
- To explore how we can enhance our environment for future generations through energy conservation, waste reduction, composting, recycling and reuse.
- To raise awareness of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on rural and urban environments.
- To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. recycling and energy and water conservation.
- To develop responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment.
- To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling and walking.
- To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal lifestyle and participation in collective environmental decision making.
- To enable students to live as informed and caring members of local, national, European and global communities.
- To help students to acquire skills through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences, which will enable them to care for the environment in such a way that has a long term positive impact.
- To encourage students to become involved in school leadership through participation in the Green Schools Programme.
- To ensure a proper infrastructure is in place to successfully implement this policy.

Action Plan

- To achieve full segregation of the recycling and waste bins.
- To greatly reduce the use of plastics in CBS Secondary School Kilkenny.
- To decrease the amount of waste generated in CBS Secondary School Kilkenny.
- To encourage students to take responsibility for the daily implementation of the Green School Programme.
- To engage with outside agencies such as Keep Kilkenny Beautiful (KKB) and Kilkenny County Council.
- To engage with local businesses on environmental issues.
- To engage with Kilkenny County Council and to support local environmental initiatives.
- To work in conjunction with the Student Council and the Global Citizen Education Group in the school.
- To partake in annual initiatives such as Climate Action Week and International Earth Hour.
- To invite local and national guest speakers to speak on environmental topics.
- To organise an annual Day of Climate Action.

- To partake in national environmental competitions, e.g. Young Reporters for the Environment, BT Young Scientist Environmental Awards, Scifest and Concern Debates, Young Environmental Awards.
- To recognise students who have excelled in the programme at the annual Awards ceremony at the end of each school year.
- To reduce the overall water wastage of the school through awareness and conservation efforts.

Practical Implementation of Programme

The Green School Programme is implemented in CBS Secondary School Kilkenny on a practical basis through the following school infrastructure:

- **Mixed recycling bins (blue / green bags)**
A mixed recycling bin for paper, plastic, aluminium and cardboard is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that all recyclables will be recycled.
- **Litter bins - general waste (black bags)**
A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e. left over pieces of food, floor dirt, food wrappings etc. Transition Year students are rostered to empty the recycle bins on a daily basis.
- **Compost bins: (brown)**
We will endeavour to install compost bins and food waste facilities in the school where possible. This is currently an immediate priority for the committee.
- **Water Reduction:** Reduce the water usage in CBS Kilkenny Secondary School through awareness and conservation efforts.

Plastic Reduction

Students are encouraged to use reusable drink containers daily. Each student is also encouraged to have a lunchbox and not to use *Clingfilm* or tinfoil. Cartons, yoghurt tubs, cereal bar wrappers, etc. should be put back into the student's lunch box to ensure that the school's overall waste is kept to a minimum.

Photocopying and Scrap Paper

Staff are encouraged to photocopy on both sides of each page to reduce paper waste. Staff must also photocopy in black and white unless colour is essential. There is an annual quota on the number of photocopies allocated to each teacher. Teaching staff make use of Google Classroom to share notes with students digitally without using paper.

Curricular Links

The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students. Environmental/green issues are key elements of CSPE, SPHE and the Wellbeing specifications. Transition Year modules such as GCE and Biodiversity provide cross curricular links with our Green Schools initiative.

Policy Review

This Green School Policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The policy is circulated amongst all staff and can be viewed on the school's website, www.cbaskilkenny.ie.

Approval

This policy has been approved by CBS Secondary School Kilkenny Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management