**Green School Environmental Policy**

**Introductory Statement**

At St. Brendan’s PS, we care greatly about environmental issues and as a result we are part of An Taisce's Green School Programme. This involves setting up a committee of teachers, pupils and parents (where applicable) The aim is to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school. These efforts are awarded through An Taisce’s Green Flags for schools.

The school has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the world’s resources wisely. Through our actions, we should develop good habits and behavior patterns in order that every member of society can contribute to a sustainable future.

The way the school environment is managed and maintained should provide an example to pupils of how to respect and care for a building and its grounds; it can also demonstrate that the school values and recognizes their needs. Pupils and the wider school community should be involved in the development and management of the school grounds.

**Aims**

• To explore how we can enhance our environment for future generations through energy

conservation, reducing waste, composting, recycling and reuse

• Become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade

environments

• Develop an understanding of conservation e.g. Recycling, energy and water

• Develop a responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment

• Promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling, scooting and walking to

school.

• 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 life style and participation in

collective environmental decision making.

• To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, European and

Global Communities.

• To acquire open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment and to understand the impact of the actions of people on the environment

• Through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences the children will acquire skills to help

care for our environment immediately and have a long term impact

**Recycling and waste management**

Paper Recycling Bins: (white)

A recycling bin for paper is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that any waste paper not suitable for the scrap paper tray will be recycled.

Litter Bins -General Rubbish: (white)

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, old crayons etc. and this is emptied on a daily basis.

Compost Bins: (brown)

The school food company disposes of all lunch waste to compost bins.

**Energy**

Due to electrical upgrade all classrooms use sensor lights which go off if no movement thus saves energy. BOM has started to upgrade some classrooms in recent years also with LED lights ( 5th / 4th classes)

Lighting within the school is generally cost effective and environmentally friendly fluorescent types are used in all classrooms. The outdoor school lights are also linked to a timer to ensure lights go off at midnight. Yard lights are dusk to dawn operated.

**Heating**

School were pilot school nationally for wood pellet boiler and system back in ………

DES upgraded to gas boiler system in …… as system was unreliable and prone to failure. New boiler working well and school system upgraded to a 2 pipe system in Summer 2021 which should be more environmentally efficient.

**Water**

Water conservation measures were installed in the school over the years comprising displacement bags in the cisterns, sensors on urinals. Water usage is being monitored termly by principal and BOM due to leaks in system previously. Water filters have been installed in each classroom and also in the school hall.

**Other Initiatives**

School notice board- Up to date information is displayed here.

Lunchbox Policy-Whatever comes in the child's lunchbox goes home in the lunchbox - i.e. a yoghurt pot, a wrapper, half eaten sandwich.

Reusable drinks -Pupils are encouraged to use a reusable drinks container daily which was provided free by school lunch company.

National Spring Clean: Once year the whole school will take part in the National Spring Clean initiative. This involves all the children and staff cleaning up their local area in a safe manner

**Paperless school communication**

Text-A-Parent with Aladdin Schools / email use

Where possible parents will be texted/ emailed school information instead of sending out individual letters with each child. This will cut down greatly on the amount of paper being used by the school.

School newsletters are emailed and uploaded onto website also. We have also tried to evolve into a cashless school from a safety ( COVID and Robbery) point of view. This means less paperwork too.

Communication with BOM and reports are now all conducted paperlessly.

**Photocopying and Scrap Paper:**

It is policy with staff to photocopy on both sides of each page to reduce paper waste. Staff must also

photocopy on black and white unless essential.

Each classroom must have a scrap paper tray where used sheets can be put for children to draw on/ colour in instead of using new pages.

**School Garden:**

A school garden has been set up where children have planted vegetable and flowers throughout the year with support from Parent and Syrian gardener Sultan.

The school garden is secure and can be accessed by classes during the day. Boys can learn about chickens / vegetables / apples ( trees) and sensory plants around garden.

**National Tree Week:**

Once a year the whole school will take part in National Tree Week. This involves children learning all about trees, how beneficial they are and what can be done to help the trees/ earth. This is linked into the classes curriculum work with art and poetry projects for different classes.

Once a year the whole school take part in National Walk/Bike/Scoot to school Week. This involves children learning about the benefits of exercise, road safety and use of more environmentally transportation. This is linked into the classes curriculum work with P.E. , SPHE, SESE and Learn Together.

**Green school Council**

Pre-COVID - The school each year elected a Green School Committee, which is made up of one teacher, SNA, the principal ( where possible) and ??? from each class from 3rd class up to 6th class.

• Their peers vote the students onto the council.

• The student members remain the same for the year to ensure continuity.

• The Green Council members liaise regularly with the school principal.

**Green Flag Programme**

The school has been awarded the green flag for the following 2 year projects / renewals

Litter and waste

Energy

Water

Green travel

Biodiversity

The school hopes to apply in future for renewal of above and for next section – Global Citizenship

**Success Criteria and review**

If school environment is eco-friendly and pupils have increased awareness and appreciation for environmental issues, the policy is successful.

It is reviewed at staff meetings and BOM meetings.

**Policy reviewed and ratified by BOM on 7th December 2021**

**Latest review – November 2021**

**Green School Codes of St.Brendan’s PS Birr**



 Do not cause waste

in this beautiful place,



Remember be cool,

Let’s have a Green School

Energy **Energy,Energy,reduce it now !**

**Lights, radio, computer and heat..WOW!**



**So please fellow students, take our advice,**

**Or someday in the future..we will all pay the price !**

Water Water, water, it is here everyday,



So try to use it in the best way,

Turn off dripping taps !

Have a shower instead of baths !

Water is good, water is great,

Lets save water before it’s too late !

**Travel Listen up people, give a care,**



**Cycle everyday..everywhere !**

**Listen up people, give a shout,**

**Use those feet to move about !**

**Listen up people, have some pride,**

**Don’t waste fuel..park n stride** !

 **Biodiversity**

 **You and me, together can help Biodiversity!**