



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

**Our Lady's Secondary School
Castleblayney**

2025 – 2026



All public service bodies are required under the Climate Action Plan to adhere to the Public Service Climate Action Mandate and develop Climate Action Roadmaps outlining how they will achieve energy efficiency and emission reduction targets.

This Sustainability Policy Statement has been developed in keeping with the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030 and reflects the ongoing commitment of Our Lady's Secondary School to sustainability, climate awareness, responsible citizenship and community engagement.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement is to outline how Our Lady's Secondary School promotes sustainability and climate action through teaching, learning, student leadership and community engagement.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, parents/guardians, Board of Management members and visitors to Our Lady's Secondary School.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our Lady's Secondary School strives to provide a caring, inclusive and progressive learning environment where students are encouraged to become responsible citizens and active members of their community.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is promoted across a range of subject areas and programmes within the school.
- Sustainability modules are delivered to all TY students across two separate TY lines.
- The school recognises sustainability as a cross-curricular theme.
- Students are encouraged to engage in project-based and action-oriented learning.
- The school continues to build sustainability awareness through student leadership, displays and community engagement.

Environmental Sustainability

- Our school has availed of Department funding for the installation of solar panels.
- Students monitor live solar energy data displayed within the school building.
- The school has applied for retrofit funding for the gymnasium and concert hall in order to improve overall energy efficiency and sustainability standards.
- A substantial investment of over €350,000 is being directed towards energy upgrades, electrical improvements and sustainability-focused developments across the school campus.



- Senior Management and staff actively engage with the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System and continue to work collaboratively to reduce overall energy consumption year on year.
- The reduction in energy usage reflects the ongoing commitment and awareness of staff, students and school leadership regarding responsible energy consumption.
- Future developments include upgrading computer rooms to modern energy-efficient systems to reduce electricity usage and improve sustainability.
- New external windows and doors are planned for the gymnasium and concert hall as part of ongoing sustainability and insulation improvements.
- Our TY students engage in Junk Kouture projects using recycled and reusable materials.
- The school operates the Deposit Return recycling bottle and can scheme.
- Our school works with local primary schools on polytunnel and planting projects.
- The school promotes recycling, energy conservation and environmental awareness throughout the school community.

Social Sustainability

- TY students work alongside elderly members of the local community assisting with practical tasks and support initiatives.
- Our school works closely with local organisations including Tidy Towns and community groups.
- Student wellbeing, inclusion and respect are central to school life.

Economic Sustainability

- The school promotes reuse, recycling and reducing waste across all areas of school life.
- Students are encouraged to develop creativity, innovation and enterprise skills through project work and TY activities.

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school values diversity, inclusion and mutual respect.
- Community involvement and local partnerships are strongly encouraged.

Teacher Competence

- Teachers support students in developing awareness of sustainability and climate action.
- Staff are encouraged to engage with sustainability initiatives and relevant CPD opportunities.

Student Competence

- Students are encouraged to participate in practical sustainability and community projects.
- TY students participate in action-based sustainability and environmental awareness activities.

Goals

- Continue to expand whole-school sustainability awareness.



- Continue reducing overall school energy consumption.
- Further develop recycling, biodiversity and environmental initiatives.
- Explore future participation in additional sustainability programmes including Green Schools.

Implementation and Review

This Sustainability Policy Statement was ratified by the Board of Management on June 16th 2026. The policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure sustainability remains central to the ongoing development of the school community.

Chairperson of the Board of Management: _____

Mary Loughrey
16th June, 2026