



Sustainability (formerly Green School) Policy Mar 2026

School Name:	Christian Brothers College Kilkenny
School Address:	Dunningstown Road, Kilkenny, R95X6CX
School Details:	CBC Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST). 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 CBC Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement

Inspired by its founder, CBC 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, CBC 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.

The word (parent), in this document means parent or legal guardian.

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 Christian Brothers College, 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. Christian Brothers College, 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. They are currently in their second year of working towards attaining the Water Flag.

While developing this policy, due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at Christian Brothers College, Kilkenny and particularly to the Wellbeing School Improvement Plan (2018-2021), the Whole School Guidance Plan (2022-2025) and Student Voice and Participation Plan (2024-2027).

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

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy is to outline how our school promotes sustainability and climate action, through our actions and activities. Sustainability can be defined as the ability to exist and develop without depleting natural resources for the future.

The 17 United Nations sustainable development goals guide our work as they are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The goals help us to understand what ESD is, and their aim is to create a better, fairer world by addressing the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate breakdown, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Scope

Sustainability is a community issue and applies to all students, teachers and employees of our school. Parents should note, and where possible, promote the policy. The Board of Management of the school will ensure that decisions made in respect of the school align with this policy.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our school's vision is to work towards a standard of excellence regarding sustainability.

Our school's mission is to engage with our local and global communities to foster partnerships, share knowledge, and inspire collective action towards a more sustainable future.

Our school's values are to take an action-led approach to cultivate a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community that prioritises the wellbeing of people and society, both locally and globally.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability:

- This policy clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school, and its relationship with the vision and mission of the school.
- Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme, and this is coordinated effectively in our school.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient at all levels.
- Our school carries out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network.
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter.

Environmental Sustainability

- Our school is part of the Green Schools Programme. Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to educate other students about issues such as waste and water management. In addition to this we will set yearly targets of practical goals to achieve such as limiting single plastic use in our Bialann.
- Our school has comprehensive recycling practices in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Our school has practices in place in respect of water conservation, waste, food waste, single use plastics and energy.
- Our school environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- Our school actively promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards the natural environment.
- Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning in our outdoor classroom where students can engage in practical learning activities related to biodiversity and sustainability.
- Our school promotes and facilitates biodiversity through the growing of wildflowers and the discussion of these topics in Biodiversity class, Geography and CSPE.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including where possible, walking and

cycling to school. Our school has a student steering committee who will promote cycling and walking to school, collaborating with Kilkenny County Council.

- Our school engages with programmes that support and promote Environmental Education, we have secured membership in the ‘Education for Sustainability Model Schools’ for 2025/6 academic year.

Practical Implementation of Programme

- The Sustainability (formerly Green School) Policy is implemented in Christian Brothers College, Kilkenny on a practical basis through the following school infrastructure:
- Mixed recycling bins: 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): General waste bins are in the Bialann and communal areas.
- Compost Bins (Brown): Compost bins are available in the Bialann, Staff Room and Home Economics Room. It is planned that compost will go out to the polytunnel.
- Water Reduction: Reduce the water usage in Christian Brothers College, Kilkenny through awareness and conservation efforts. Rainwater is being collected on the roof to flush toilets.
- Sustainable Transport: Infrastructure is in place to promote cycling and walking to school.
- Plastic Reduction: Students are encouraged to use reusable drink bottles daily.

Approval

This policy has been approved by CBC Kilkenny Board of Management.

Signed: _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: _____