



# **Sustainability SSE**

**End of Year 1  
Annual Review  
May 2026**

<b>Dimension: Leadership and Management</b>	<b>Domain 2-Managing the Organisation</b>
<b>Standard:</b>	
The school values and promotes a commitment to sustainable development and implements practices and policies that embed the principles of sustainability in the daily routines of the school.	
<b>Statements of Highly Effective Practice:</b>	
The school prioritises and promotes, as a core value, a commitment to sustainable development; the school community collectively develops and implements practices and policies to embed principles of sustainability in the school’s daily routines.	
<b>Improvement Target 1:</b> To reduce the monthly ratio of general waste to recycling waste leaving our school campus from 4:1 general waste to recycling to 1:2 general waste to recycling.	

### Key Achievements

- There has been a steady uptake in the use of reusable bottles this year among both staff and students.
- Junior students attended a recycling workshop to help establish positive habits early on.
- Plastic bottle return bins have been used successfully and are donated to the social enterprise WeCan.
- New signs were introduced in the Bialann, offering improved clarity, which was an issue previously highlighted by students.
- Designated student leaders in Green Schools carried out weekly collections of recyclable materials from classrooms and placed them in the recycling skip.
- Students have shown improved littering habits, particularly outdoors, as seen through Green Schools students taking part in litter picks after lunch.

### Challenges and Areas for Growth

- Issues still remain regarding the correct use of bins during busy times in the Bialann. An area for growth would be to establish a student leadership group to take active ownership and help change student culture.
- A high proportion of waste generated from the hot counter is non-recyclable due to the lack of wash and dry facilities for students. However, this waste is compostable, which is a goal to work towards once effective separation of recycling and general waste has been fully established.

<b>Dimension: Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>Domain 4- Developing Leadership Capacity.</b>
<p><b>Standard:</b></p> <p>Critique their practice as leaders and develop their understanding of effective and sustainable leadership</p>	
<p><b>Statements of Highly Effective Practice:</b></p> <p>The school prioritises and promotes, as a core value, a commitment to sustainable development; the school community collectively develops and implements practices and policies to embed principles of sustainability in the school’s daily routines.</p>	
<p><b>Improvement Target 2-</b> To increase the amount of students and staff who cycle and walk to school from 10.5% of students to 20% and from 10% to 20% of staff.</p>	

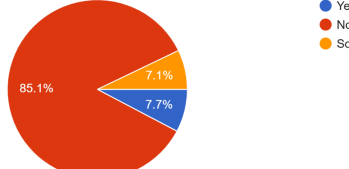
### Key Achievements

- New high-quality bike storage facilities and bike lanes have been provided for students and staff.
- The successful Cycle to School Challenge at the start of the year highlighted a willingness to cycle when incentives are offered.
- Bike repair workshop training was completed by a small team of TY students. New tools and equipment were also secured at the end of the year to further improve this service next year.
- A Cycle Safety Workshop will be offered to Junior Cycle students in May 2026 by trained tutors to address safety concerns raised by parents.
- Student representatives were given active leadership roles and responsibility for the school Sustainable Mobility Plan, including data collection and presentations to the Board of Management and staff.

### Challenges and Areas for Growth

- New access to ample parking has dissuaded some staff from cycling daily. A reminder of the Bike to Work Scheme and associated health benefits may help counteract this.
- The Cycle to School Challenge was due to be repeated around Easter by Kilkenny County Council, but this did not go ahead. An area for growth next year would be to host our own CBC Cycle Challenge without reliance on external partners.
- Access to bikes remains a barrier for some disadvantaged students. It may be beneficial to explore a bike donation and repair initiative to improve equity of access.

### Results of Surveys

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