



St. Peter Apostle Junior National School

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Sustainability Policy

Policy Summary Details

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| Policy Title: | Sustainability Policy |
| Written/Reviewed: | April 2025 |
| Date Ratified by BOM: | 30 th of April 2025 |

St. Peter Apostle Junior National School

Introductory Statement

This policy has been compiled to assist staff, pupils and parents of St. Peter Apostle J.N.S. in making informed decisions in relation to promoting sustainability and maintaining a green school.

Vision and mission statement

We in St. Peter Apostle Junior School, aim to foster a culture of responsibility and stewardship so that we can empower our pupils to become proactive agents of change in safeguarding our planet for future generations. We strive to make environmental awareness an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school through our practices and by participating in the Green Schools programme.

Aims

We strive to realise this vision by seeking to:

- Understand the impact that people's actions have on the environment through developing good habits so that every member of our school community can contribute to creating a more sustainable future.
- Examine the impact of waste and litter in our environment and identify ways we can reduce and minimise the amount of waste and litter we produce.
- Become aware of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and man-made environments.
- Develop an understanding of conservation – recycling, water, energy etc.
- Develop a sense of responsibility of ownership for the classroom, school grounds and local community.
- Acquire skills to help care for our environment through investigation, explanation and hands-on experience.

Environmental Review:

1. *Litter and Waste:*

- Reduce the amount of waste produced - pupils eat their lunch in the classroom – no food / drink is taken to the yard. Pupils bring home their own lunch rubbish and any uneaten food. If a pupil is absent, their hot lunch is offered to others.
- Pupils and staff take responsibility for disposing of food waste, paper and rubbish in an appropriate manner - food waste is disposed of daily into the correct bins, recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, certain plastics, water bottles, milk cartons etc. are disposed of into recycling bins (clean, loose, dry).
- Staff photocopy in black and white, when possible, use both sides of the page and use recycled paper for the printer/photocopier where possible.
- Laminate classroom/school signs and labels where possible and laminate worksheets and other documents that are used frequently to reduce unnecessary photocopying.
- Classrooms have scrap paper boxes to promote the reuse of paper.
- Promote litter drives throughout the year – i.e. litter picks.
- Teachers keep clean recyclables which can be used at junk art stations during Aistear or for Art activities.

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- Parents / Guardians are primarily contacted via text messages (Aladdin System) and email to reduce unnecessary photocopying.

2. *Energy:*

- Promote a 'switch off and save' rule - lights are switched off when leaving the room to go to the yard or hall/ on a sunny day, projectors/computers are turned off when not in use and are unplugged at the end of each day.
- Classrooms have light sensors that automatically switched off and thermostats which can be controlled individually.
- Being mindful of windows and doors being left open and how this can result in heat being lost in the school building.
- Raise awareness of the link between energy use and the associated financial cost.

Curriculum

We use a cross curricular approach to teach sustainability to pupils in our school. Environmental/Green issues are key elements of S.E.S.E. and S.P.H.E. and these issues are weaved into other curricular areas:

- *S.E.S.E.:*

Study of materials and their properties

Develop a scientific approach to problem – solving

Promote communication of ideas, report writing and presentations

Develop an understanding of environment issues at a local and global level such as pollution, climate change etc.

Engage with Global Citizenship programmes

- *S.P.H.E.:*

Promote personal development and well-being

Develop citizenship and a sense of personal and social responsibility

Promote communication, co-operation and working with others

Promote media awareness

- *Art:*

Create posters to raise awareness of environmental matters

Junk Art- Reusing recyclable materials to create models

- *English:*

Public speaking, debates, poetry, essays etc, based on sustainability/environmental issues

- *Maths:*

Provide real life situations/case studies for mathematical analysis

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Use of charts and graphs measuring volume/capacity, interpreting surveys etc.

Green Schools Committee

- We have deferred our participation in the Green Schools Programme since 2020/21 due to the Pandemic and frequent changes in personnel within the I.S.M. Team in recent years. We are currently focusing on obtaining our Active Flag and will resume our participation in the Green Schools programme and reprise our committee once this has been achieved. The whole school community will be involved in the work of this committee- teachers, the principal, caretaker, parents and any other interested members of the school community. There will be regular updates at assembly, on the school website/social media pages and on school notice boards.

Green Flag

- St. Peter Apostle J.N.S. was awarded its first flag for Litter and Waste in 2016 and our second flag for Energy in 2018. We will continue to work, as a whole school community to embed practices and work towards obtaining further flags in the future.

Parental Involvement

- Our Parents' Association, guided by our H.S.C.L. teacher, play an active role in leading sustainable initiatives in our school. They organise an annual 'Spring Tidy-Up' and hold clothing drives to recycle clothes and raise money for the school. Our parent body, led by our H.S.C.L. have contributed to our environmental/sustainability efforts by planting flowers and engaging in 'litter picks' around our school grounds.

Ratified by the BOM on 30th of April 2025

Signed:



Date:

30/4/25

Vivion Powney

(Chairperson)

Signed:



Date

30/4/25

Laura Hannon

(Principal)