



Sustainability Policy Statement

Introduction

Presentation College is a Catholic, co-educational, voluntary secondary school which caters for students of all religions and backgrounds in accordance with current equal status legislation. This policy statement has been developed following consultation between staff, parents, students, Principal and the Board of Management. In this policy document the term 'parent' is taken to include 'guardian'.

Mission Statement

Presentation College is, by choice, a truly co-educational school. We aim to prepare all of our students, girls and boys alike for the challenges, responsibilities and experience of adult life. All members of the school community - students, parents, teachers and other staff - are held in very high regard and their dignity, worth and individuality is respected. We strive to build a sense of community based on Christian values. The school's Code of Behaviour acknowledges this and aims to promote a culture of respect throughout the school. It recognises that good discipline enables good teaching and allows good learning to take place.

Presentation College is under CEIST Trusteeship. The core values of CEIST are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people at the heart of our school: students, staff and parent. Its key principles focus on:

- Promoting spiritual and human development.
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning.
- Showing respect for every person.
- Creating community.
- Being just and responsible

Inspired by the vision of Nano Nagle, Presentation College provides the conditions and experiences which will promote the development of the full potential of each person including their spiritual, moral, physical, social, aesthetic, intellectual and vocational development.

We strive to ensure that every member of the school community is held in very high regard and their dignity, worth and individuality is respected. We aim to build a sense of community based on Christian values.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement ("the Statement") 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.



Scope

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

Whole-School Approach to Sustainability

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement. It clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school and its relationship to the vision and mission of the school.
- Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all subjects e.g. Transition Year module Sustainable Technology, CSPE and Politics and Society.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter-<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/a1d6e-education-for-sustainable-development-newsletter/>

Environmental Sustainability

Green-Schools is an international, environmental education programme, offering a well-defined, controllable way for schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school.

- Our school is part of the Green Schools Programme.
- Our school was awarded a Green Flag in 2024 for Biodiversity.
- Our school is currently working towards achieving a Green Flag award for Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste.
- Our school has a Green Team comprising staff and students whose role is to promote and monitor sustainability in the school.
- Our school engages with various programmes in the area of sustainable development.



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- Our school promotes recycling where possible. Bins are available in areas and classrooms for recycling.
- 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 biodiversity, e.g. polytunnel, planters.
- Our school promotes sustainable transport including, where possible, walking and cycling to school, e.g. bike shelters.
- Our school promotes sustainability actions through our designated social media account: @PresGreenSchool

Social Sustainability

- Our school ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity.
- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in the solving of community problems at local level.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- The needs of all students, in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- All school staff are provided with training in the area of conflict resolution, in order to support and affect positive student behaviour.

Economic Sustainability

- A non-competitive ethos of co-operation and sharing of resources is modelled in our school's allocation of its resources.
- Students are involved in the decision-making process on resource allocation within our school, e.g. Student Council involvement.



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- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills, e.g. TY World of Business.
- Our school buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practice in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Our school educates on, and promotes the principles of, a circular economy.

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, along with a mutual regard and respect for fellow students, and positive social interaction and relationships.
- Our school ethos, in tandem with the curriculum, strives to prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society.
- Our school demonstrates a commitment to community engagement, and encourages the community's involvement with the school.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself, and in the wider school community.

Teacher Competence

- Our teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD, e.g. opportunities to engage in CPD for Junior Cycle CSPE, Leaving Certificate Geography, Politics and Society and World-Wise Global Schools.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to undertake action-orientated projects e.g. Challenge to Change.
- Our school has a Student Council/ Green Schools committee who are involved in decisions about sustainability.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community action on sustainability projects, e.g. Elderflower Garden Club.
- Our schools are involved in project-based learning around real-life problems in the local community.



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Goals

Our school will aim to maintain a Green Flag for Biodiversity. We are committed to achieving a Green Flag for Global Citizenship and for Litter and Waste.

Implementation and review

This Statement was ratified on 10th October 2024.

To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed every two years.

Signature of Chairperson: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Carmel Murphy'.

For and on behalf of the Board of Management