

Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.



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GREEN SCHOOL POLICY June 2019

School Name:	Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny
School Address:	James's Street, Kilkenny
School Details:	CBS Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. 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 CBS Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement

Inspired by its founder, CBS 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, CBS 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.

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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 CBS Kilkenny will work together to fix 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. There are a total of eight Green Flags organised into different categories. CBS Kilkenny achieved its first Green Flag for litter and waste initiatives in May 2018. The school environment can be improved for all of the school community by partaking in this programme. As the Green School programme is a whole school approach, cross curricular links are an essential part of the initiative.

While developing this policy due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at CBS Kilkenny and particularly to the Wellbeing School Improvement Plan (May 2018). General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been developed in light of this legislation.

Rationale

In CBS Kilkenny we care greatly about environmental issues and we are part of the *An Taisce* Green School Programme. This involves setting up a committee of teachers, students and other staff with the support of the Parents Council. The aim is to make environmental awareness, leadership and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school. These efforts are rewarded through *An Taisce* Green Flags for schools.

Aims and Objectives

- To understand the impact of the actions of people on the environment
- To explore how we can enhance our environment for future generations through energy conservation, waste reduction, composting, recycling and reuse
- To raise awareness of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments
- To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. recycling and energy and water conservation
- To develop responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment
- To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling and walking
- To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through personal lifestyle and participation in collective environmental decision making
- To enable students to live as informed and caring members of local, national, European and global communities
- To foster open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment
- To help students to acquire skills through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences, which will enable them to care for the environment in such a way that has a long term positive impact.
- To encourage students to become involved in school leadership through participation in the Green Schools Programme
- To ensure a proper infrastructure is in place to successfully implement this policy.

Action Plan

- To achieve full segregation of the recycling and waste bins
- To eliminate the use of plastics in CBS Kilkenny
- To reduce the amount of waste generated in CBS Kilkenny
- To encourage students to take responsibility for the daily implementation of the Green School Programme
- To engage with outside agencies such as Keep Kilkenny Beautiful (KKB) and Plastic Free 4 Schools
- To engage with local businesses on environmental issues
- To engage with Kilkenny County Council and to support local environmental initiatives
- To work in conjunction with the Student Council, the Health Promoting Schools group, the World Wide Global Schools and the Cumann ERST in the school
- To organise an annual Day of Climate Action
- To invite local and national guest speakers to speak on environmental topics

- To partake in annual initiatives such as Climate Action Week and International Earth Hour
- To partake in national environmental competitions, e.g. Young Reporters for the Environment, SEAI One Good Idea Project, ChangeX Community Project, Young Scientist Environmental Awards
- To recognise students who have excelled in the programme at the annual Awards ceremony at the end of each school year.

Practical Implementation of Programme

The Green School Programme is implemented in CBS Kilkenny on a practical basis through the following school infrastructure:

- **Mixed recycling bins (blue / green bags)**
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 / cream bags)**
A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e. left over pieces of food, floor dirt, food wrappings etc. This is emptied on a daily basis.
- **Compost bins: (brown)**
We endeavour to install compost bins and food waste facilities in the school where possible. This is currently an immediate priority for the committee.

Plastic Reduction

Students are encouraged to use reusable drink containers daily. Each student is also encouraged to have a lunchbox and not to use *Clingfilm* or tinfoil. Cartons, yoghurt tubs, cereal bar wrappers, etc. should be put back into the student's lunch box to ensure that the school's overall waste is kept to a minimum. It is envisaged that there will be a plastic ban in place in the near future.

Photocopying and Scrap Paper

It is policy for staff to photocopy on both sides of each page to reduce paper waste. Staff must also photocopy in black and white unless colour is essential. There is an annual quota on the number of photocopies allocated to each teacher.

Curricular Links

The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students. Environmental / green issues are key elements of CSPE, SPHE and the Wellbeing specifications.

Policy Review

This Green School Policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The policy is circulated amongst all staff and can be viewed on the school's website, www.cbskilkenny.ie.

Approval

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management