CTI Clonmel

Raheen College &
Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn

Sustainability Policy Statement
April 2026

Policy Area	Schools
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Policy Drafted by	Central Technical Institute Clonmel
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Mission Statement

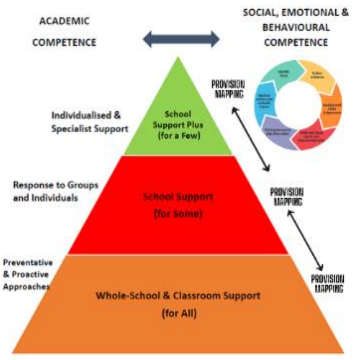
The role of our school is to facilitate the students of Clonmel and its environs in the acquisition of general and specialised education. CTI Clonmel is under the patronage of Tipperary Education and Training Board. ETB schools are state, co-educational, multidenominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect



CTI Clonmel provides students with equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our school strives to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our school

- provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society
- promotes a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff
- prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values
- treats equally students of all religions and beliefs. The school environment and activities do not privilege any group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.



In CTI, SSE/DEIS planning underpins how we identify needs, meet those needs and monitor and record student outcomes, in conjunction with the continuum of student support (diagram on the right).

All policies are formulated around Child Protection & Safeguarding procedures using the school's Student Safeguarding Statement, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2025), the Children First Act 2015 and the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct (2016)

Sustainability Policy Statement

All public service bodies are required under the Climate Action Plan to adhere to the Public Service Climate Action Mandate – and to develop Climate Action Roadmaps setting out how they will deliver on their energy efficiency and emission reduction targets. Schools now have a separate Climate Action Mandate under which they are required to adopt a Sustainability Policy Statement. The School Sector Climate Action Mandate can be read in full here: gov.ie - School Sector Climate Action Mandate (www.gov.ie).

The second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – ESD to 2030 also informs the content of the following Sustainability Policy Statement template. ESD aims to ensure that "by 2030, all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development". (Sustainable Development Goal 4.7)

The following has been prepared as part the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, and in keeping with the principles and themes of ESD to 2030 and has been accepted by the Board of Management of our school. Sustainability Policy Statement.

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."

Scope

Sustainability is a community issue with an underlying personal responsibility that applies to all students, teachers, and employees of our school. This will allow us to create a community where sustainability becomes an integral part of what we do. Parents and guardians should note, and where possible, promote our Statement. The Board of Management of the school will ensure that decisions are made in respect of the school align with the statement.

Sustainability in our school's vision, mission and values

Our school's vision is to provide a quality education to our students so that we create a community that is engaged and committed to sustainable development. By fostering a culture of growth and development, thereby allowing our students reach their full potential, we hope that our students, in turn, will support and educate others for a sustainable future.

Our school's mission statement is to encourage the development of the full person through imparting knowledge and skills and through inculcating values; to develop critical thinking and to promote informed decision-making skills in students; and to respond to the educational needs of the local community. Through this policy we hope to encourage our students to further develop academically, personally, socially and in their understanding of sustainability.

Our school is based on the core values of care, community, equality, excellence and respect. While each core value is important in its own right, by combining all of the core values with sustainability, we hope to encourage our students to become active global citizens.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- By adopting this sustainability Policy Statement, our school clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and its relationship to the vision and mission of the school.
- Our school recognises E.S.D as a cross-curricular theme and we aim to further develop this approach in the future.
- Opportunities are identified to address and enhance sustainability in the classroom and across all subjects. This can be seen through cross curricular links between subject departments and in the approach to classroom-based assessments.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and sufficient.
- Our school joined the Irish Schools Sustainability Network in April 2024. (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/.
- *Future developments in this area include:*
    - Align all school policies with the principles of sustainable development.
    - Carry out regular self-evaluation of our teaching practices in the area of sustainable development.

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 school life.

- Our school is part of the Green schools programme and was awarded the first green flag for litter and waste management in May 2024. The second flag for Water and Pollution

has been achieved in Raheen College, and work has commenced towards the second flag for Water and Pollution in Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn. Our green team comprises of students; teachers and our caretaker whose role is to create an awareness across the school community of initiatives to reduce waste and to improve our working environment in an environmental and sustainable manner.

- Our school engages with the local County Council on a regular and ongoing basis. We participate in local and community clean ups, allowing our students to recognise the importance of a clean environment to the flora and fauna of the habitat. The County Council, in return, run informative seminars for students and engage with their families to try and achieve more energy efficient homes.

- Our school promotes and fosters an attitude of care and responsibility towards our natural environment. There is a regular rubbish pick-up, and extra bins have been made available to allow for the segregation of waste. Return bins are also available for the collection and return of plastic bottles and drinks cans.

- Our school has a recycling policy in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible. Through the actions of the green school programme the cost of recycling has greatly reduced over the past two years. The installation of a filtered water fountain for both staff and students has greatly enhanced the reduction of our recycling costs.

- Books are reused, where possible, and an opportunity is given to parents to re-use uniforms and coats that have been left over throughout the school year.

- Our school resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment – e.g. recycled paper for printing and tissue in the bathrooms. Cardboard boxes are reused by the Art department.

- Lighting in classrooms and along the corridors is sensor controlled and switches off during times when classrooms / corridors are not in use to reduce energy costs.
- Information is displayed on the green schools notice board for students.
- Our school has undertaken many small initiatives based on the environment in which the two schools are built.

Social Sustainability

- Our students are provided with opportunities to develop and use their skills to participate in solving community problems at local level. Students participate in the National clean up in conjunction with An Taisce and the local Tidy Towns Committee.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning needs are taken into consideration and accommodated. Teachers are made aware of suitable strategies to support the student throughout the school cycle.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- All school staff are provided with the schools Code of Positive Behaviour to support and affect positive student behaviour.

Economic Sustainability

- The sharing of resources is modelled in our school's allocation of resources.
- Students have an input in decision making where appropriate through membership of the Green schools committee or the student council.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn business skills through Mini Company & Foróige activities in Transition Year, Work experience in L.C.A, and in school fund raising activities.

- Our school building is maintained to a high standard with best practices of sustainability in mind for example with recycling, food share and take basket.
- Our school encourages the sharing of resources using technologies such as Microsoft Teams which reduces paper waste.
- Our school encourages the removal of obsolete messages and data by both students and staff on a regular basis.

Cultural Sustainability

- Our school ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, to do the best they can in their education, and to show care and respect to all members of the school community.
- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society.
- Our school demonstrates a commitment to community engagement and encourages community involvement with the school.
- Our school has an active role in supporting cultural diversity both within the school itself and in the wider community where we have over 25 different nationalities represented.

Teacher Competence

Our teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of E.S.D through:

- continuous professional development
- cross curricular links for classroom-based assessments
- informative presentations throughout the year
- membership of the ISSN
- access to the ESD newsletter.

Student Competences

- Our students do the short course in CSPE for Junior cycle.
- Our students are encouraged to get involved in local sustainable projects.
- Our school has a green schools committee where we strive to maintain our environment in a sustainable way such as setting flowers, litter picking and painting benches.
- Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local community organisations such as Tidy Towns.

Goals

- Having recently achieved the blue flag for water in Raheen College, we will aim to achieve the blue flag for water in Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn by 2028. This goal aligns with LAOS 2022's Dimension 2: Learning and Teaching, Standard 3.3, which states that schools should "promote sustainable practices and encourage students to become active environmental stewards." By achieving the Litter and Waste Green Flag, we will demonstrate our commitment to environmental sustainability and provide students with hands-on experience in reducing waste and protecting the environment.
- To establish an outdoor learning space which aligns with LAOS 2022's Dimension 2: Learning and Teaching, Standard 3.6, which states that schools should "foster a school ethos that promotes sustainable practices and respect for the environment."
- To encourage more use of our outdoor green spaces in a cross-curricular approach.
- To maintain the low costs of recycling per month.
- To ensure that data projects in classrooms are turned off when not in use.

Implementation and Review

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on **11 June 2026.**

Signed: _____
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: 11/06/26.

Date of next review: _____