SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2026/2027
Boherbue Comprehensive School
POLICY

BOHERBUE
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

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1.1 The Sustainability Policy of Boherbue Comprehensive School aims to:

• Reduce energy inefficiencies in school.
• Promote greater awareness of sustainability in all members of our school community.
• Encourage promotion of a single use plastic free school.
• Engage the support of parents, students and staff in delivering our sustainability policy.
• Engage with external agencies e.g. SEAI to identify sustainability opportunities for our school community.
Efforts made to source funding for sustainability projects
• To give clear direction for sustainability projects in the school.
• To engage with local community groups on environmental matters e.g. Boherbue Tidy Towns.
• Promote Green School initiatives in our school community.

1.2 Scope

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with the Board of Management, staff, students and parents and in the context of the school's aims and values. This policy applies to all students of Boherbue Comprehensive School, to their parents/guardians and to all members of the school staff and management; and relates to all school activities both during and outside of normal school hours. This policy recognises that there are many diverse sustainability needs in the school that are informed by the structural history of the school. The most recent extension incorporates many positive environmental attributes. The oldest section of the building (1973) has seen improvements like putting insulating material over the suspended ceilings throughout the main school, replacing fluorescent tube lighting throughout the main school with energy efficient lighting, upgrade to heating system in main school including zoning the heating controls, putting heating stats in all classrooms and the replacement of all radiators. This all helps to reduce the carbon footprint in our school and enhance measures to combat climate change in our locality. The planned new extension will incorporate many environmental attributes.

1.3 Relationship to school's mission, vision, aims.

Mission Statement:
Boherbue Comprehensive School by virtue of its position in the community endeavours to give the best education and service to its pupils and community, based on Christian values that will help all who come into contact with the school to reach their full potential. This policy has been developed in line with our mission statement which has the care of students at its core. The school believes that respect for the individual is essential to the smooth and efficient running of a school however the school also believes that as individuals we all have a collective responsibility to one another, the community in which we live, our local environment and the rest of the world. This policy is our school community's commitment to preserve and protect our environment for our current, past and future students, their families and communities.

1.4 Rationale

Boherbue Comprehensive School believes that effective teaching and learning should take place in a school that both protects, preserves and promotes the environment.

1.5 Goals

• To create a safe and sustainable learning environment.
• To identify opportunities for greater energy efficiencies.
• To ensure that the best use is made of all our resources to improve the environment.
• To ensure that all members of the school community are aware of the importance of sustainability and the environment.

2. Policy Content

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

• The Board of Management, in ratifying this policy, demonstrates its commitment to the school's sustainability policy. The Board of Management is also committed to promoting sustainability in school development projects. The Board of Management supports and encourages the work of the Green Schools and Sustainability.
• Management will facilitate and encourage Green School and Sustainability initiatives that are in line with the Sustainability Policy.
• Students are expected to engage willingly with this Sustainability Policy in recognition that they have a vital role to play in preserving and protecting their environment.
• Staff are expected to lead by example and to promote this Sustainability Policy both in and out of class.
• Parents/guardians are expected to support the principles of the school's Sustainability Policy and to encourage their students to act in a manner that demonstrates an awareness of the importance of sustainability for us all.
• The Green Schools Committee will continue to promote student voice in implementing this Sustainability Project.

2.2 Identified needs

• Reliance on oil boilers in the older sections of the buildings. (SEAI)
• Determine if maximum Import Capacity for the school (MIC) is appropriate. (SEAI)check
• Publish an updated Display Energy Certificate. (SEAI)
• Lighting upgrades throughout the older sections of the school. (SEAI)
• Reduce electricity consumption during holiday periods and weekends. (SEAI)
• External wall insulation. (SEAI)
• Thermostats in various zones. E building (SEAI)
• Eliminate single use plastic in school. (Green Schools)
• Reduce paper by reducing printing and photocopying. (Green Schools)
• Reduce energy use by turning off lights/computers. (Green Schools)
• More effective recycling – separation of waste. (Green Schools)
• Use more environmentally friendly resources e.g. white board markers. (Green Schools & Bealach Infrastructure Committee)

- Establish a biodiversity garden which includes a bug hotel, polytunnel, wildflower and green pasture.
- Development of 'green spaces' around the school. (Green Schools)
- Planting of trees in biodiversity garden and around the school grounds.
- Efforts made to avail of more funding to carry out 'identified needs'

3. Review

• Sustainability Policy Actions to be identified at scheduled School Improvement Planning Meetings.
• Green Schools to engage with the Principal when proposing action.
• Principal to liaise with the Buildings Unit, Design team and Board of Management.
• Sustainability Policy to be reviewed every two years.
Transition Year group responsible for development and maintenance of biodiversity park.

4.Progress to date

- All classroom fitted with sensor lights to minimise the use of electricity in the school, and make the school more energy efficient
- All lighting in the main school has been replaced with energy efficient ones
- Heating system in the main school got a major upgrade in 2017 including new radiators, stats in all rooms and zoning the heating system.
- Oil Boilers serviced annually.
- IT Coordinator in the school promotes a policy to ensure that all IT equipment is shut down when not in use
- All teachers are encouraged to be aware of wasteful energy consumption in their classrooms
- New water stations have been introduced throughout the school, and students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles to school
- The school Pollytunnel has been planted with vegetables for the coming season
- Plans are being drawn up to develop a Biodiversity Garden in a designated area on the school grounds
- Green School Policy actively being promoted in the school by students