**Edenderry Primary School**

**Environmental Education**

**General aims and philosophy of the policy:**
The school has a duty to prepare future generations with the knowledge and skills to manage the world’s resources wisely. Through our actions, we should develop good habits and behaviour patterns in order that every member of society can contribute to a sustainable future.

The way the school environment is managed and maintained should provide an example to pupils of how to respect and care for a building and its grounds; it can also demonstrate that the school values and recognises their needs. Pupils and the wider school community should be involved in the development and management of the school grounds.

Education for sustainable development should give pupils a greater understanding of both natural and human systems through a range of immediate environmental experiences that engage their senses, emotions and thinking. It should enable the school community to develop a life ethic that values all people and the natural environment. It should further allow them to become aware of the actions that they ought to pursue in order to live more sustainably now and in the future. The implementation of this
policy should therefore contribute to and support the provision of a pleasant and socially responsible environment.

We aim to cut down and eradicate the waste of energy throughout the school thus enabling the school to run more efficiently and contributing to a healthier environment.

**We will:**
 Regularly review and improve our Eco-Code

* Take note of our Eco-Code when planning activities and events.
* Ensure the Eco-Code is displayed prominently around the school, and review and make any necessary changes during the year.
* Update and discuss any ideas and developments with staff and volunteers, and at meetings.
* Keep the site clean and tidy
* Research the use of environmentally friendly ideas, and encourage their use by staff and children for use in the home and at school, or other location, and make any suggestions for improvements.

**Litter and Waste**
We will:

* Re-use single sided paper, print and photocopy on both sides.
* Where possible, laminate worksheets and other documents used frequently, especially outdoors.
* Recycle waste such as paper, clothes and ink cartridges
* Reduce the amount of waste produced.
* Encourage the use of scrap paper trays in classrooms.
* Litter reduction and prevention is an on-going process that involves all members of the school community.
* Regard litter clearing as a positive environmental action, which will also help foster a sense of personal pride and responsibility in pupils.
* Demonstrate that litter prevention improves the environmental quality of the school and the neighbourhood.
* **Water**
We will:

* Establish and raise awareness of simple actions that can cut down on water use substantially e.g. introducing hippos in toilets.
* Make pupils aware of the link between water use and financial cost.
* Help pupils and the wider community understand that conserving water is vital to our future.

**Energy Use**
We will:

* Establish and show that simple low- or no-cost measures to conserve energy can be effective and bring about significant savings e.g. turning off lights and electrical appliances when not in use and keeping windows clean to allow maximum natural light.
* Use rechargeable batteries.
* Monitor energy consumption by tracking regularly the school’s use of gas and electricity.
* Make all members of the school community aware of the link between energy use and financial cost.
* use alternative sources of energy such as solar power.

**Transport**
We will:

* Purchase goods in bulk, where appropriate.
* Share car use to and from meetings and for other purposes when public transport isn't viable.
* Raise awareness about the impact of transport to the environment and to people’s health.
* Provide adequate and safe facilities for pupils and staff cycling and walking to school (target for our new build 2011).
* Implement an effective awareness programme on road safety for pupils.

**The outdoor environment**
We will:

* Use the school grounds as a source of teaching and learning

opportunities for pupils.

* Ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by pupils as

well as provision to undertake exercise.

* Develop the grounds as a place for aesthetic experiences.
* Create habitats for a range of other species.
* Be aware that the school grounds provide the visitor with the first impression of the school and will influence the attitude and behaviour of the pupils.

**Healthy Living:**
We will:

* Be aware that good mental as well as physical health at an early age

not only helps avoid future health problems such as obesity and heart disease: It can also improve pupils’ ability to learn.

* Aim to be a healthy school by looking holistically at issues of

exercise, diet, the aesthetic quality of the school and its grounds, bullying and the risks associated with sex, smoking, drugs and air pollution.

**Implementation and monitoring:**
A group comprising of pupils and adults will be involved in the development, implementation and review of the school’s environmental policy. They should recommend action that could be taken to meet the policy’s aims and where possible help to implement the action plan.

***All staff:***

*\*        Will switch off the computers in classrooms before going home.*
*\*        The last class timetabled to use the ICT suite will switch off the*
*computers at the end of the lesson.  If you choose not to go in as timetabled, then it is your duty to turn off the computers at the end of the day.*
*\*        \*        Will switch off lights when leaving a classroom, the library/ICT*
*suite, staffroom/kitchen or the hall.*
*\*        Will turn off photocopiers, laminating machines, copyprinters etc*
*as soon as the use of the appliance is finished.*
*\*         Will turn off any tap left running and report any defective taps to*
*the site supervisor.*
*\*        Will encourage children to participate in all the energy saving*
*activities around the school and have classroom monitors wherever*
*possible i.e. light monitors, computer monitors, recycling monitors.*

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