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Coláiste Dún an Rí Sustainability Policy Statement

Introduction

This Sustainability Policy Statement outlines Coláiste Dún an Rí's commitment to sustainability and climate action. It reflects our shared responsibility to foster environmental awareness, social inclusion, and economic responsibility within our school community.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy is to guide Coláiste Dún an Rí's efforts in promoting sustainable practices in all aspects of school life, ensuring that we contribute positively to a sustainable future.

Vision, Mission, and Values

- **Vision:** Coláiste Dún an Rí is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment where students are guided and encouraged to excel both academically and socially as valued members of the school community.
- **Mission:** To develop Coláiste Dún an Rí into a school community that the parents/guardians and students of the Kingscourt area can be proud of, ensuring that the educational experience of young people is enhanced and enriched.
- **Values:** Excellence, honesty, and respect are the core values that permeate all aspects of school life. These values drive the high-quality education and collaborative efforts that define the Coláiste Dún an Rí experience.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

Coláiste Dún an Rí has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement to ensure sustainability is embedded in all aspects of school life.

- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is recognised as a cross-curricular theme and integrated into teaching and learning.
- All school policies align with the principles of sustainable development.



- A Green Team or Sustainability Committee comprising students, staff, and parents will oversee sustainability initiatives.
- Initial staff survey findings indicate that while sustainability is becoming embedded across our school, more work is needed to make policies and practices more visible and consistent across departments. There is strong support for moving forward with a unified whole-school strategy.
- Coláiste Dún an Rí has successfully completed the **Litter and Waste, Energy and Water Flag** and are now actively working towards the **Travel Flag** as part of the Green-Schools programme.

Environmental Sustainability

- **Recycling and Waste Reduction:** Coláiste Dún an Rí has a comprehensive recycling programme and actively reduces waste, including single-use plastics.
- **Energy and Water Conservation:** We monitor and reduce energy and water use, aiming to achieve a 20% reduction by 2025.
- **Biodiversity and Outdoor Learning:** The school promotes biodiversity through a school garden, School Meadow lawn, and outdoor lessons.
- **Sustainable Transport:** Coláiste Dún an Rí encourages walking, cycling, and the use of public transport through initiatives like Safe Routes to School.

Social Sustainability

- Coláiste Dún an Rí's ethos promotes respect, inclusion, and gender equity among all members of the school community.
- Students are encouraged to participate in community projects and volunteer activities to address local and global issues.
- The school celebrates diversity and fosters an understanding of global citizenship through intercultural events and themed lessons.

Economic Sustainability

- Resources at Coláiste Dún an Rí are procured with sustainability in mind, such as using recycled paper for printing.
- The school promotes a culture of reuse and repair, encouraging initiatives like second-hand uniform sales and book exchanges.
- Fundraising activities reflect ethical and sustainable principles.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Principal and Leadership Team:** Oversee the implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- **Teachers and Staff:** Integrate sustainability into lessons and day-to-day activities.
- **Students:** Actively participate in sustainability initiatives and serve as ambassadors for change.
- **Parents and Guardians:** Support the school's sustainability goals and engage in projects where possible.

Goals for 2025/26

1. Achieve the Green Flag for Travel as part of the Green-Schools programme.
2. Promote a 10% increase in active travel among students and staff.
3. Reduce paper use by 15% through increased use of digital platforms.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Progress will be reviewed annually using tools such as the Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool (Survey)
- Updates will be shared with the school community through newsletters, assemblies and Social media
- Feedback from students, staff, and parents will inform improvements to the policy.

Implementation and Review

This policy was adopted on by the Board of Management on 29 May 2025 and will be reviewed every two years by the Board of Management and the Sustainability Committee.