



**De La Salle College  
Waterford**

**Sustainability Statement**



**School Name:** De La Salle College, Waterford.

**School Address:** Newtown, Waterford.

**School Roll Number:** 649500

**School Details:** De La Salle Waterford is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship and the patronage of the Le Chéile 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 De La Salle, Waterford is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

**Mission Statement:**

Inspired by its founder, the mission of the college is: *“De La Salle College, Waterford is an all-boys Catholic school. It is a learning community where all students are valued and educated in preparation for a meaningful life”*

**Ethos:**

As a Le Chéile school in the De La Salle tradition De La Salle Waterford seeks to promote the key values of a Le Chéile school as espoused by the life of St. Jean-Baptiste De La Salle. Graduates of our school are characterised by a keen sense of the following:

- Intellectual Development
- Emotional and Social Development
- Moral Development
- Spiritual Development
- Concern for Others

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement (“the Statement”) 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 and applies to all students, teachers and employees of our school. Parents and guardians should note, and where possible, promote, the Statement. The Board of Management of the school will ensure that decisions made in respect of the school align with the Statement.

## **Vision**

To create a resilient sustainable learning community where all students are valued and educated in preparation for a meaningful life.

## **Values**

- Concern For the Poor and Social Justice – SDG 1 No poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Faith in the Presence of God.
- Quality Education – SDG 4 Quality education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Respect for all Persons.
- Inclusive Community – SDG 4 Quality education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

## **Whole School Approach to Sustainability**

- Our school has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement. It clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our school, its relationship to the vision and mission of the school.
- Our school recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme.
- Our school is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network.
- Our school keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter.

## **Environmental sustainability**

### **Campus**

- Our school is part of the green schools programme.
- Our school has a recycling programme in place.
- School lights were upgraded to LED in 2023.
- Solar panels were installed in 2024.
- A pocket forest will be planted in January 2025.

### **Curriculum**

- TY students can opt to take part in Climate Literacy Module.
- All students are invited to participate with Green Schools and sustainability teams.
- All students are invited to participate in Climate detectives and Wild Walls competitions.
- Designated area within the art department for storage of single use plastics, card packaging and larger items which are upcycled through various learning outcomes.

### **Community**

- Teachers are alerted to ESD CPD opportunities.

## **Social Sustainability**

### **Campus**

- We have a unit in our school – The Hub. The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated.
- The flags that represent all 38 nationalities that make up our student body are on display along the A floor.
- The mural in the Foyer recognises and celebrates the different languages of our school community.
- The diversity mural in the Foyer emphasizes and promotes the importance of a diverse school community.
- Our prayer room is welcoming of all faiths.

### **Curriculum**

- Our school ethos strives to prepare students for life as citizens of a global community.
- Our school engages with Global Citizenship Education programmes such as World Wise Global Schools.

- Students can opt to be part of the Yellow flag team and our school is working towards it's first yellow flag. Staff have completed yellow flag training.
- TL21 have language supports in place for EAL students.

### **Community**

- Our Lasallian ethos promotes inclusivity. Students support this work through the Lasallian leaders programme which aims to highlight and promote our core values.
- Our school is part of the BeLonG to programme.
- We have a check and connect programme to support and affect positive student behaviour.
- The TY Buddies programme is a peer mentoring programme for 1<sup>st</sup> year students.
- Lunchtime clubs including Games club, Chess club and the Library are open to all students.
- We have a behavioural support team and classroom to address and implement strategies for those with behavioural issues.
- In 2023 we held our first culture day. All students are invited to participate, and all Junior students attended.
- Our Lasallian ethos promotes inclusivity, concern for the poor and social justice.
- Friday prayer is facilitated for students of the Muslim community.
- Links are made with the wider international Lasallian community through the pen pals initiative.

### **Goals - ESD Whole School Targets 24/25**

As a result of completion of the self-assessment process in February 2024 the following areas marked as emergent were selected for improvement:

19.	Our school promotes and facilitates outdoor learning
43.	Our staff are familiar with the 17 SDGs and linkages across the curriculum
44.	Our staff appreciate the three equal strands of sustainability: Environmental, Social and Economic
45.	Our students are knowledgeable about the 17 SDGs.
46.	Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer-to-peer learning activities.

Self-Assessment Score 2023/2024: 79

## **Actions**

### **Campus**

- Increase biodiversity through planting and the creation of greater growth spaces – living walls, herb garden, raised beds.
- Installation of a polytunnel to create an outdoor classroom space.

### **Curriculum**

- Sustainability and Biodiversity awareness lessons delivered to all students.
- Additional lessons available on the teacher share folder for use during free periods.
- Peer to peer learning on Climate literacy with TYs and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year students.

### **Community**

- Whole school CPD on ESD.
- Promotion of SDG by placement in classrooms and common areas, SDGs displayed in the staffroom.
- SDGs addressed in student assemblies.

### **Implementation and review**

This Statement was implemented on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024. To ensure our school strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed annually.

**Approval:**

This policy has been distributed, where relevant, to staff, parents and students for their approval.

Amendments have been made after consultation with these stakeholders.

**Ratified by the Board of Management**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Clare Ryan  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

14/10/2024