

Our Green Schools charter for Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh outlines a commitment to environmental awareness and action within the school community. It is a framework for integrating environmental practices into daily school life and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Since we moved in to our new school on the 19th of June 2024, we have endeavoured to prioritise and raise awareness of environmental issues within the School Community.

1. Core Principles:

- **Environmental Awareness:**

Raising awareness among students, teachers, staff, and the wider community about environmental issues. **(Ongoing collaboration between all partners in Scoil and Spioraid Naoimh's School Community).**

- **Action-Oriented:**

Moving beyond awareness to practical actions that reduce the school's environmental impact. **(New Green initiatives developed recently since transitioning into our new school).**

- **Community Involvement:**

Engaging the entire school community – students, teachers, parents, and staff – in the process. **(Through communication – emails, Assemblies, School website, regular announcements in school).**

- **Sustainability:**

Promoting long-term, sustainable practices that benefit the environment. **(YES)**

- **Curriculum Integration:**

Connecting environmental learning with the curriculum, making it relevant to students' lives. **(Specific lessons on waste reduction, paper reduction and art competitions to promote Green rules and protocols).**

- **Holistic Approach:**

Integrating environmental awareness and action into all aspects of school life. **(Ongoing process).**

Key Elements of a Green Schools Charter:

- **Green Code:**

"We will reduce, reuse, and recycle. We will conserve energy and water. We will protect our local environment."

- **Green Schools Committee:**

Our Green School Committee are responsible for leading the Green Schools initiatives.

- **Seven Steps:**

The Green-Schools program uses a seven-step framework for implementing environmental actions: **(An ongoing process)**

- **Forming a Green-Schools Committee:** Assembling a team to guide the process. **(YES we have a School Green Committee).**
- **Environmental Review:** Assessing the school's current environmental practices. **(YES with regular assemblies and sharing of information).**
- **Action Plan:** Developing specific, measurable goals and actions. **(School Green rules & Protocols).**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracking progress and making adjustments. **(YES – regular reviews and updating protocols within the school environment, for example the introduction of hand towels per pupils in the classroom).**
- **Curriculum Work:** Integrating environmental themes into lessons.
- **Informing and Involving:** Sharing information and encouraging participation. **(Assemblies & regular communication).**
- **Green Code:** Developing a statement of commitment. **(YES – in our School's Green set of Rules & Protocols – shared to Parents.).**

- **Flag Themes:**

The Green Schools program has various themes, such as Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship, and Marine Environment.

- **Action Plan:**

Specific actions related to the chosen theme(s) will be developed and implemented. This might include things like reducing waste, conserving energy, promoting walking or cycling to school, creating a biodiversity area, or learning about global environmental issues. **(We are an Active School, over 2/3rds of the pupils' cycle, scoot and walk to school daily).**

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Tracking progress towards goals and evaluating the effectiveness of actions. **(Will progress more September 2025).**

- **Community Involvement:**

Engaging the wider school community in the process through events, assemblies, and communication. **(Monthly Assemblies, regular fograí on the intercom).**

Goal: Reduce litter and waste generated by the school. **(Achieving on an ongoing basis in the school).**

Action:

- Install more recycling bins and clearly label them. **(In place in classrooms).**
- Organize litter clean-ups around the school grounds. **(On a daily basis – Timetable for all year groups).**
- Run a campaign to encourage students to bring reusable lunch containers and water bottles. **(Completed and now embedded in the school)**
- Educate students on proper waste disposal. **(Correct use of waste bins in the classrooms).**
- Incorporate litter and waste reduction into the curriculum. **(Picker Pals initiative, Yard Litter pickers Timetable, reduction in the use of paper, increase use of online resources).**
- **Monitoring:** Regularly count and analyse the amount of waste generated and recycled. **(Reduce the number of Duster bins on a weekly basis from 4 to 2)**
- **Evaluation:** Assess the impact of the campaign and make adjustments as needed. **(Review each Green initiative and share Data to the School Community).**

In essence, our Green Schools charter provides a roadmap for Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh to become more environmentally responsible and to empower students and Staff to become environmentally conscious citizens.

We will build on this capacity as we continue to live in our new school and observe areas for prioritization and review.

June 2025 SSN Green School Committee