

Contents

1	Scope	2
2	Relationship to the Vision, Mission and Values of Belvedere College S.J.....	2
3	Green Flag	2
4	Need for the Policy.....	3
5	Policy Objectives.....	3
6	Policy Implementation.....	3
7	Achieving Objectives	4
8	Evaluation.....	4

1 Scope

This policy applies to students, teachers, and employees of Belvedere College S.J. It should be noted by parents.

2 Relationship to the Vision and Mission of Belvedere College S.J.

Our vision is to form *men for others* – compassionate, discerning people in pursuit of a just and sustainable world.

We strive to be people of integrity who relate honestly and fairly with one another. We walk with and advocate for those on the margins, locally and globally. We recognise the urgent need to respond to the pandemic of poverty and climate change.

(Extract from the Belvedere College Vision, Mission and Values Statement).

Environmental responsibility is essential to the Vision, Mission and Values of the College as the “pursuit of a just and sustainable world” requires it. The pursuit of justice and the Jesuit ideal of men for others are of great relevance to environmental responsibility, not least as it is the poor of the world who suffer the consequences of environmental degradation most.

3 Green Flag

Belvedere College was awarded its first Green Flag in 2010. Green Flags are earned and presented under the Green-Schools international environmental education award scheme.

The Green-Schools programme (internationally known as “Eco-Schools”) promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. In Ireland, Green-Schools is run by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland) in partnership with local authorities and corporate sponsors. It started in Ireland since 1997 and has grown each year. Currently well over a half of all Irish schools are participating, and over 2,000 schools have been awarded flags (www.greenschoolsireland.org).

The aim of Green-Schools is to increase students’ awareness of environmental issues through classroom studies and to transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and in the wider community. A seven-step process (similar to the EMS/ISO 14001 certification/EU EMAS (Eco-Management Audit Scheme)) sees schools tackling the issues of waste and litter, then energy, water and transport and more. Student involvement is a priority, and the award must be re-applied for every two years. The College was awarded a sixth Green Flag for Biodiversity in 2020.

4 Environmental Policy in the context of our ethos

- 4.1 Care for God's Creation: the College community has a responsibility to care for creation through our role as active Christians; there is a clear link between faith and care for the environment. Care for Creation is an important global identifier for Jesuit schools
- 4.2 Environmental problems: the College must be aware of, and respond to, unprecedented environmental challenges: the rapid use of fossil fuels and resultant global warming, future oil shortages, the scarcity of clean water, the creation and disposal of rubbish, protection of plant and animal species and ecosystems, and related issues;
- 4.3 Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present generation should not jeopardise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Ireland is committed to this principal and signed up for Agenda 21 (the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992), and the Department of Environment has a Sustainable Development Strategy. We in Belvedere support the concept of sustainable development;

5 Policy Objectives

Through this policy Belvedere College S.J. intends:

- 5.1 to promote environmental awareness and conservation amongst the College community, and to encourage it to actively participate in solving environmental issues affecting the school;
- 5.2 To reduce our carbon footprint and promote the concept of “reduce, re-use, recycle” amongst students and staff.
- 5.3 to encourage staff and students to examine and interpret the environment through the curriculum and through our faith and service programmes.

6 Policy Implementation

The College will endeavour to implement this policy by means of the following.

- 6.1. Green Flag activities: by using the Green Flag Action Plan as a practical means of involving students and staff, and by monitoring its goals on a regular basis. The re-award of the Flag depends on the implementation of the Action Plans by the College community in relation to each flag.
- 6.2. Energy conservation: From a baseline audit in 2019/20, the College commits to an annual decrease in energy consumption between 2022 and 2024.
- 6.3. Heating/lighting: From a baseline audit in 2019/20, the College will commit to an annual increase in energy efficiency between 2022 and 2024 utilising renewable energy resources.
- 6.4. Recycling and Conservation: The College will continue to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, glass, mobile phones, chargers and batteries, printer toner, electrical/computer equipment.

- 6.4.1. Waste Management: Waste will be segregated appropriately and disposed of correctly. The College strives to ensure that all bins are clearly marked Recycle / General Waste. The College commits to being single use plastic/packaging free by September 2024. From a baseline audit in 2019/20, reductions in waste will be tracked annually.
- 6.5. Water Conservation: Through monitoring and the use of technology.
- 6.6. Transport and College trips: Reducing transport-related carbon emissions through educating and offsetting and a focus on the value of each trip and activity versus our College ethos.
- 6.7. Procurement Policy: How we procure goods and services should be in line with our policy objectives.
- 6.8. Uniform: by promoting the Green Flag bring-and-buy uniform sale at the end of summer term;
- 6.15 Urban Farm: The Belvedere Farm will continue to be a local, national and international hub for best practice in project-based learning for a sustainable future.

7 Achieving Objectives

To achieve the objectives of this policy Belvedere College S.J. will:

- 7.1 fully involve the Maintenance Department;
- 7.2 continue the College's Green-Schools involvement;
- 7.3 continue the post of Environmental Officer with a Post of Responsibility;
- 7.4 promote awareness through College publications;
- 7.5 increase environmental education across the curriculum, in co-curricular activities and faith and service programmes;

8 Evaluation

This effectiveness of this policy can be judged from the following indicators:

- 8.1 the retention of the Green Flag and the obtaining of further Green Flags;
- 8.2 Achievement of specific targets in fields of energy efficiency, energy consumption and waste management as set out by the baseline audit and subsequent audits.
- 8.3 Achievement of targets as set out in the Greenhouse Gas Audit in relation to Scopes 1,2 and 3 which will be reviewed and rated periodically.