

GREEN POLICY

The School's Green Policy is constituted to provide a healthy and safe workplace to assist teachers, pupils, and parents in making a collaborative decision in promoting and maintaining a green school.

Policy Introduction

At Carmel Convent School we care about environmental issues. A committee of teachers, pupils, and parents is set up for environmental awareness and undertake action in an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school.

Aims

- To understand the impact of the actions of people on the environment.
- To explore and enhance our environment for future generations through energy conservation, reducing waste, composting, recycling, and reuse.
- Become aware of the importance of air, water, waste, and litter pollution in natural and human-made environment.
- Develop an understanding of conservation e.g. recycling, energy, and water
- Develop responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment
- Promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling, scooting, and walking to school.
- To foster a sense of responsibility for the long-term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the resources through personal lifestyle and participation in collective environmental decision making.
- To enable the child to live as an informed and caring member of Local, National, and Global Communities.
- To acquire open, critical, and responsible attitude towards the environment.

- Through explanation, investigation, and hands-on experiences the children will acquire skills to help to care for our environment and have a long term impact.

Awards/ Competitions:

Activities and information campaigns currently running within the school are:-

We give out Green Awards weekly during assemblies. These certificates are awarded to children that make the most effort to be 'green', i.e. recycling paper, using the compost bin correctly, and picking up litter outside. Separate bins – for litter recycling and compost are taken into consideration for individual certificates.

We aim to have a weekly tidy classrooms competition. Members from the competitions committee go around to each classroom every day (after each lunch break) to ensure that the standard stated as part of the tidy classrooms guidelines is maintained daily.

Litter Bins -General Rubbish:

A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of classroom waste i.e. leftover pieces of food, floor dirt, pencil shavings, etc. and emptied daily.

Save Energy

The Green School Committee acts as the classroom energy monitor, ensuring that all appliances are switched off when not in use, to conserve energy. Lighting within the school is generally cost-effective, environment-friendly.

Children pledge to save energy: "Switch off lights if you don't need them!" A child in each class is assigned the task of switching off all lights at break-time and before going home in the evening.

Water

The school has campaign on water conservation run by the class teachers. Children are introduced to various activities like pledges and created posters to advertise the benefits of saving water for the future. Daily water consumption is monitored by the teachers and student leaders.

Other Initiatives:

Lunchbox Policy:

Leftover food, wrapper, tinfoil, paper etc, with whichever material food is wrapped in, goes back home. This policy has numerous benefits.

- It dramatically cuts down on the school's waste.
- It encourages the parents to think of more ways to reduce their waste
- The parents can see how much their child is eating.

Pupils are encouraged to use reusable water bottles. Each child is also encouraged to have a lunchbox and not to use Clingfilm or tinfoil. Cartons, yoghurt tubs (which must be washed out), Each student takes back the lunch waste along with them to ensure that the school's overall waste is kept to a minimum.

Re-Use:

Children are encouraged not to use tin foil or cling-film in their lunch, to reuse bottles for their drinks, conserve paper by writing on the back of sheets deemed "waste" etc. Volunteers students come to help for **recycling** throughout the year. Collection of old phones, used batteries, ink cartridges, and old clothes are sent to the relevant agencies or to the centres for recycling. The staff keeps recyclable items for art materials i.e. toilet rolls, cardboard, paper, tinfoil, recycled bottle tops. A corner of the school is kept aside for STEM wherein the students can create something creative.

School Garden:

A school garden is set up where the school plants, vegetables and flowers throughout the year. There are several flower beds which we aim to increase. Collaboration with the neighbouring school has been initiated to increase the green school awareness and sense of community.

Environment

In keeping with our ongoing environmental awareness, Carmel Convent School's Healthy Eating Policy reduces the amount of litter in the school and gives the pupils an understanding of how people affect the world around them and how they can improve it. In doing this, we encourage the pupils to cut down on litter produced by packed lunches e.g. using re-sealable bottles instead of cartons or reusable airtight containers rather than disposable wrappings. A large percentage of school waste is composed of organic material (e.g. fruit and vegetable peelings). This compost is used as a soil conditioner or surface mulch to help us to maintain our school gardens. Any packaging leftover from a child's lunch is taken home in the lunch box for disposal.

Green Council

The school has set up its Eco- Green School Committee from Eco and Science Clubs.

- Their peers vote the students onto the council.
- The student members remain the same for the year to ensure continuity.
- The Green Council members liaise regularly with the school principal.

Acknowledgement of Effort

The council meets regularly and involves itself in initiatives to improve the school environment through e.g. the Green Awards for the most conscientious student throughout the week. The school has Green Classroom Awards for the tidiest / most energy-saving (all appliances turned off).

Our practices:

- Turn it off (a campaign) - e.g. water, electricity (lights, computers, CD players, etc.). Composting our fruit remains from lunch.
- Monitor the heaters. Do not leave windows open if the heater or AC is on.
- Turn off the water- coolers in the main building if not necessary.
- Composting pencil sharpening, newspaper and anything else waste to home.