**Green Schools Policy:**

**School Name:** Edmund Rice Secondary School, Carrick-on-Suir.

**School Address:** Mount St. Nicholas, Carrick-on- Suir, Co. Tipperary.

**School Details:** ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship and the patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools 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 ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

**Mission Statement:**

Inspired by its founder, ERSS Carrick-on-Suir’s mission is to “*To provide a caring Christian community which celebrates effort and talent in an environment of hope and happiness"* , with a vision to *“Learn together, succeed together in a respectful environment.”*

**Ethos**:

As an Edmund Rice School ERSS Carrick-on-Suir seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

● Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values

● Promoting partnership in the school community

● Excelling in teaching and learning

● Creating a caring school community

● Inspiring transformational leadership

Please Note:

Personal data collected about prospective students/students and their parents/guardians will be retained and used strictly in accordance with the provisions of GDPR legislation as introduced 25th. May 2018. Further details on data protection are set out in the school’s Data Protection Policy.

**Introduction**

The Green School Programme is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges longterm, whole school action for the environment. The whole school community of ERSS Carrick on Suir will work together to fix environmental issues that affect the school and the environs of Carick on Suir. The main aim is to promote recycling and the responsible use of school facilities. There are a total of eight Green Flags organised into different categories. ERSS Carrick on Suir has recommenced it’s involvement with environmental protection in the academic year of 2018 - 2019. The school environment can be improved for all of the school community by partaking in this programme. As the Green School programme is a whole school approach, cross curricular links are an essential part of the initiative.

**Rationale**

In ERSS Carrick on Suir we care greatly about environmental issues and we are part of the An Taisce Green School Programme. This involves setting up a committee of teachers, students and other staff with the support of the Parents Council. The aim is to make environmental awareness, leadership and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school. These efforts are rewarded through An Taisce Green Flags for schools.

**Aims and Objectives**

• To understand the impact of the actions of people on the environment

• To explore how we can enhance our environment for future generations through energy conservation, waste reduction, composting, recycling and reuse

• To raise awareness of the impact of air, water, waste and litter pollution on natural and manmade environments

• To develop an understanding of conservation e.g. recycling and energy and water conservation

• To develop responsible ownership of the classroom and school environment

• To promote alternative methods of transport to and from school e.g. cycling and walking

• To foster a sense of responsibility for the long term care of the environment and a commitment to promote the sustainable use of the Earth’s resources through personal lifestyle and participation in collective environmental decision making

• To enable students to live as informed and caring members of local, national, European and global communities

• To foster open, critical and responsible attitudes towards the environment

• To help students to acquire skills through explanation, investigation and hands on experiences, which will enable them to care for the environment in such a way that has a long term positive impact.

• To encourage students to become involved in school leadership through participation in the Green Schools Programme

• To ensure a proper infrastructure is in place to successfully implement this policy.

**Action Plan**

• To achieve full segregation of the recycling and waste bins

• To eliminate the use of plastics in ERSS Carrick on Suir

• To reduce the amount of waste generated in ERSS Carrick on Suir

• To provide a suitable school environment to facilitate pollinators.

• To engage in conservation of energy through switching off energy sources when not in use.

• To conserve water.

• To make ERSS Carrick on Suir a litter free zone.

• To encourage students to take responsibility for the daily implementation of the Green School Programme

• To engage with outside agencies such as Keep Kilkenny Beautiful (KKB) and Plastic Free 4 Schools

• To engage with local businesses on environmental issues

• To engage with the local County Council and to support local environmental initiatives

• To work in conjunction with the Student Council, the Health Promoting Schools group, the World Wide Global Schools and the Cumann Éamonn Rís in the school in association with the Edmund Rice schools Advocacy Programme.

• To organise an annual Day of Climate Action

• To invite local and national guest speakers to speak on environmental topics.

• To partake in annual initiatives such as Climate Action Week and International Earth Hour

• To partake in national environmental competitions, e.g. Young Reporters for the Environment, SEAI One Good Idea Project, ChangeX Community Project, Young Scientist Environmental Awards

• To recognise students who have excelled in the programme at the annual Awards ceremony at the end of each school year.

**Practical Implementation of Programme**

The Green School Programme is implemented in ERSS Carrick on Suir on a practical basis through the following school infrastructure:

• Separate bins for paper, plastic, aluminium and cardboard is placed in the staffroom, office and in each classroom to ensure that all recyclables will be recycled.

• Litter bins for general waste A general litter bin is also placed in each classroom to cater for the disposal of normal classroom waste i.e. left over pieces of food, floor dirt, food wrappings etc. This is emptied on a daily basis.

• Compost bins: We endeavour to install compost bins and food waste facilities in the school where possible in the near future.

**Plastic Reduction**

Students are encouraged to use reusable drink containers daily. Students on enrolment are presented with a complimentary ERSS reusable school bottle. Each student is also encouraged to have a lunchbox and not to use Clingfilm or tinfoil. Cartons, yoghurt tubs, cereal bar wrappers, etc. should be put back into the student’s lunch box to ensure that the school’s overall waste is kept to a minimum. It is envisaged that there will be a plastic ban in place in the near future.

**Photocopying and Scrap Paper**

It is policy for staff to photocopy on both sides of each page to reduce paper waste. Staff must also photocopy in black and white unless colour is essential. To date there is not a quota in place for the amount of photocopying allocated to each teacher.

**Monitoring of litter**

Members of the Green School’s will have a monitoring brief on a daily basis and will liaise with the school management structures and caretaking staff to ensure we develop a litter free culture.

**Protection of Pollinators**

We have decided to allow none essential school grounds remain unmowed to encourage butterfly and bee activity.

**Advocacy Work**

ERSS Carrick on Suir is part of the ERST Advocacy Programme as one of the piolet schools. Part of the work of this programme is working with the dangers of disposable plastics. The Advocacy group in the school has developed strong links with the school’s science dept., the Green School’s working group, Transition Year students and the SVP.

**Conservation**

We are in the process of developing a culture of conservation of energy and water. The BOM are actively engaged in ways of reducing the amount of water and energy used in the school.

**Curricular Links**

The school views environmental issues as being fundamental to the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to nurture a respect for the environment in their students. Environmental / green issues are key elements of CSPE, SPHE and the Wellbeing specifications.

**Approval:**

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

Amendments have been made after consultation with these stakeholders.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of ERSS Carrick-on-Suir;

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

This policy will be due for review on:

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