

Green-Schools Action Plan

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS



Goal	Action / Target	Person/Group responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
1. To reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill by 25% on a per capita basis.	Ensure all children take home lunch rubbish.	Teachers	Autumn 2018 and ongoing	All children and parents are aware – limited evidence of any personal rubbish in bins.
	Provide bins for the sorting of waste in all rooms in the school.	Committee and Board	Autumn 2018 and ongoing	Labelled bins for landfill and recycling have been put in every room. This has expanded to include a bin for torn paper and a composting bin in the kitchen.
	Remind classes about the different bins and discuss what can be placed in each bin.	Committee	Action Day assemblies	Children are aware of the different bins and their purposes, and this is reviewed following bin checks as required.
	Establish regular bin checks, ranking the use of each bin on a three-point scale and congratulating classes for progress.	Committee (class representatives)	Weekly	Each Friday the Committee Members check the bins and rate them for each class. Steady improvement regarding the bins has been observed.
	Weigh individual bins to encourage reduction at a class level as well as to define totals for the whole school by participating in the Litterless Campaign.	Committee	2018-2019; 2020-2021	The Committee completed the Litterless Campaign. Totals by class led to greater awareness of how much waste each class is producing.
	Compost food waste from Afterschool @ KETNS and Breakfast Club as well as pencil shavings, cardboard and paper towels.	Committee, club leaders	Autumn 2020 and ongoing	Two different composters were purchased and are in use. The compost is used in the school garden.
	Establish a plan for using scrap paper in each classroom.	Teachers and class representatives	Spring 2021	Committee Members are discussing this with their classes to make a plan for reducing paper use.

Green-Schools Action Plan

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS



Goal	Action / Target	Person/Group responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
1 (cont.). To reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill by 25% on a per capita basis.	Organise annual Action Days to communicate progress, review whole-school procedures for waste management and ensure all classes complete related lessons.	Committee, teachers, all children	April 2019; May 2021	One Action Day was held and another is planned for the end of this month. All classes completed specified curriculum work on this day as well as on a regular basis
	Make paper briquettes using torn/shredded paper and sell them.	Committee	Autumn 2020 and onwards	Approximately 100 large paper briquettes are made and dried with more on the way. They will be sold to parents in Autumn 2021.
2. To address litter hotspots on the school premises and the local vicinity	Participate in the National Spring Clean to clean the grounds as well as areas in close proximity school.	Committee, parents	Annually (first time was Spring 2019)	The Committee and volunteer parents have participated.
	Form a committee of children and/or parents who will weekly check litter hotspots, removing litter.	Parents	Weekly	On Mondays a small group of parents volunteer to check the school grounds with particular attention to litter hot spots.
	Post no trespassing signs to discourage people from entering the grounds and leaving behind rubbish.	Board of Management	Spring 2021	The Board put up a new sign at the largest gate to the school and near the worst litter black spot.

Green-Schools Action Plan

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS



Goal	Action / Target	Person/Group responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
3. To replace single-use items (particularly plastic, if possible) with better options	Purchase reusable plates, cups and cutlery for events.	Board of Management	Spring 2019	Reusable plastic cups, delft and cutlery was purchased for the Spring Fair and other large events such as assemblies and family potlucks.
	Provide only digital copies of newsletters, notes and permission forms using Aladdin, email and Google Drive.	Secretary, principal, staff	Autumn 2018	This practice is fully embedded in the school now.
	Source compostable/recyclable cups for use at large events.	Secretary	Autumn 2019	Compostable cups and lids for coffee/tea have been sourced that are made from
	Switch from using Twistables to coloured pencils.	Teachers	Autumn 2019	With the consultation of children, staff agreed to make this change. Children prefer them because they make a sharper point.
	Purchase eco-friendly whiteboard markers and refill cartridges.	Principal	Autumn 2019	Special refillable markers available from Nexus are used by teachers and older children in the school.
	In response to COVID-19 requirements, source paper towels that are made from recycled material and compostable.	Secretary and principal	August 2020	With the need to replace the roller towels, we sourced paper towels that, while slightly more expensive, achieve this goal. Some of the towels are adding to our compost.
	Campaign to encourage plastic-free lunches, providing ideas and showing good examples in the newsletter.	Committee	Autumn 2020 and ongoing	A special day was designated to check these, and several excellent examples and ideas were shared in the newsletter. The vast majority of children have no single-use plastic in their lunch boxes.

Green-Schools Action Plan

Knocknacarra Educate Together NS



Goal	Action / Target	Person/Group responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
3 (cont.). To replace single-use items (particularly plastic, if possible) with better options	Count the children using reusable drink containers. Provide reusable bottles as needed and survey regularly.	Committee	November 2020	During the first survey, approximately 88% had a reusable bottle. On a subsequent check this was now 95%.
	Encourage the use of recyclables for art creation and the saving of scraps for future projects.	Teachers	Spring 2021 and onwards	Teachers have actively promoted use of recyclables and saving materials for future projects related to our Creative Schools work.