



Single-Use Plastics Policy

Introduction

This policy is designed to ensure that Limerick ETSS supports the work of parents in relation to encouraging our students to live responsibly.

We believe that a change in our current attitude to, and use of single use plastic is indisputably valuable and warranted.

We seek a cultural change based on education and encouragement. We will not use words such as 'rules', or 'banned', when implementing this policy initiative. We believe that this will be the more sustainable and rewarding approach in the long term.

Aims and Objectives

- Purchase and promote re-usable water bottles for all students. Discourage single-use plastic bottles in the hopes of eradicating it on campus.
- Consult with stakeholders. Gain support from local shops/suppliers.
- To examine the feasibility of composting more waste matter in the school.
- Improve recycling – specifically correct sorting. Facilitate and encourage washing out of re-usable containers, and cleaning recyclable containers for recycling.
- Educational initiatives to equip students with the knowledge and motivation to reduce plastic waste. Teach the hierarchy: Refuse, Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle.
- Carry out regular audits, and educational drives, to continuously reinforce and embed the culture of Limerick ETSS being Plastic-Free.
- Remove various single-use plastics on campus in steps:
 1. Plastic bottles
 2. Coffee cups, and other disposable cups
 3. Milk cartons
 4. Plastic Cutlery, straws
 5. Efforts in home-economics, e.g. avoiding cling-film
 6. Efforts to embed our policy in purchasing decisions across departments
 7. Efforts to reduce plastic packaging when making purchasing decisions
 8. Encouraging students to make improvements at home; educate family
 9. Keep evolving the policy as we learn more

Action Plan

- The promotion of a Plastic Free Limerick ETSS will SPHE, CSPE, Science, Home Economics, Geography, PE, and Class Tutors/Year Heads
- Promotion of Plastic Free Limerick ETSS will be achieved through the use of visual displays throughout the school.
- Information on Plastic Free practices will be available on the Limerick ETSS app, school website and in the school journal.
- Visitors and guest speakers will be invited to offer their expertise on the subject.
- Consultation with the Student Council will take place on an ongoing basis to further develop and promote a Plastic Free Limerick ETSS.
- If food is sold/provided on the school premises, it will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is in alignment with the Single Use Plastic Free Policy.
- Water fountains at which students can refill bottles with clean drinking water will be installed.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed regularly. It will take into account any legislative changes, new policy and strategy documents either in the school or from the Department of Education and Skills, changes in school facilities and feedback from parents/carers, students and staff. The review will be carried out by the Green Schools Committee, which is made up of both students and teachers.