



Litter and Waste Policy

Mission Statement

Our *mission* in Chanel College is to enable our students to reach their full potential so that they will make a positive difference in today's world. We strive to create a sense of community within the school and an informal but respectful atmosphere between students and staff members. In this pastoral environment, students are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and for their learning.

The first *aim* of Chanel College is to bring young people to the fullness of their human potential in the light of the gospel.

The *charter* is a core statement that has been arrived at through a collaborative process with seeks to:

- reflect the fundamental character of the school
- guide the development of school policies, curriculum and structures
- reflect the partnership between, Staff, Parents, Students, Trustees...

The *charter* of Chanel College as a Marist School is:

- to provide an appropriate curriculum for all students in a Christian environment which is safe, caring and well disciplined.
- to foster a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect between students, staff and community.
- to enable each student to reach his full potential by promoting a sense of personal responsibility, which emphasises the values of honesty, justice and commitment to work.
- to be guided in a special way by the key Marist qualities of mercy and compassion.
- to recognise and where possible to cater for the emotional and professional needs of management and staff.

The Ethos of the school

Marist schools are situated within the mission of the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers) and within the special vocation of the Catholic Church to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in every place and age. As such the Marist School will be clearly identified as Catholic and Marist. Its teachers and attitudes will seek to express the faith of the Church in the contemporary situation. The timetable and curriculum will consider the need to learn how to pray and worship, appreciate feasts and fasts, give quiet but regular service to the needy. The décor of the school will include elements discreetly recalling the spiritual life, the local and world-wide mission of the Church and the Society of Mary.

As their name suggests, Marists seek to orientate themselves and their activities with reference to the person of Mary, to the intuitions of the Marist founders, particularly Venerable Father John-Claude Colin, and to the living tradition of the Society of Mary. The characteristic “Marist spirit”, derives from the Gospel, meditation on the presence of Mary with Jesus in Nazareth, on her presence with the apostles as they waited in prayer for the coming of the Spirit, on her hidden presence in the early Church, and on her unique significance for the Church today. Therefore, the Marist School community will seek to reflect the service, commitment and acceptance which are evident in Mary’s life.

The tradition to which the Marist school belongs is rooted in the mission of the Church, the spirituality of the Society of Mary and the local environment in which the school is situated. The Marist school will value that tradition: always seeking to express the faith of the Church in the contemporary situation, adapting to the conditions of modern times as the early Marist Fathers did in post-revolutionary France in the nineteenth century and aware of the Marist spiritual heritage to which they are party the Marist school will take due care to actively pass on that tradition to the future generations of pupils, staff and parents.

A Marist school will seek to help each student become his/her best self in the context of the Catholic community of faith, and of our world today. In doing this a Marist school will nourish, support and show due concern for the development of all the dimensions of a student’s life, inclusive of the spiritual, the intellectual and the physical along with the emotional, moral and social dimensions.

A Marist school must endeavor to combine a successful pursuit of excellence with discretion, the simplicity we associate with Mary. The atmosphere and discipline of the school community should be as easy and cheerful as due order permits. The way staff encounter pupils allows them to speak to them will approach more nearly the personal, familial style rather than the institutional, again, in so far as the different circumstances allow.

A Marist school is a consciously nurturing community. It is a community of pupils, staff and families who have a shared endeavour where Mary's way of believing and being present to others is made concrete; where there is agreement on the common task; where there is respect for the different roles within the community; and where there is an acceptance of the equality of dignity for all. By its actions, values and beliefs the school is specifically organised to draw families, teachers and pupils into community and to respect and affirm; the dignity of all, the specific roles and responsibilities of each, and the agreed task of the education of the young.

(Issued by the Provincial Council – Ireland 2007)

Introduction

Our school, Chanel College, is committed to creating a clean, sustainable, and environmentally friendly campus through effective litter and waste management. We aim to reduce waste, promote recycling and composting, and encourage responsible behaviour among all members of our school community, including students, staff, and visitors. This policy aligns with the principles of the Green Schools Initiative and is part of our school's broader effort to achieve Green Flag certification under the theme 'litter and waste'.

Policy Goals

1. To reduce the amount of waste generated by the school community.
2. To promote recycling, composting and responsible waste management practices.
3. To increase awareness of litter and waste issues among students and staff.
4. To encourage students to take leadership in managing litter and waste on campus.
5. To support environmental education through practical, hands-on activities.
6. To create a culture of sustainability and sustainable practice in the school.
7. Take pride in the appearance of the school and put care into ensuring that litter goes into the bins rather than elsewhere on the school grounds.

Roles and Responsibilities

Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools Committee at Chanel College, which includes student representatives, and teachers, are responsible for leading our school's waste management initiatives. This committee will:

- Coordinate litter and waste reduction initiatives and activities within the school.
- Organize and conduct regular audits of the school's waste output. - Set targets for waste reduction and recycling improvements.
- Provide regular updates to the school community and advise on best practices.

- Undertake achievable review or action when if issues arise in regards to litter and waste.
- Consult with the main office and caretakers on any changes or action plans that they wish to implement.

Student Council

The Student Council works closely with the Green Schools Committee to support waste reduction goals and serve as role models for the rest of the student body. The Student Council will:

- Encourage students to follow the school's litter and waste policy.
- Communicate feedback and suggestions from students to the Green Schools Committee.
- Assist in organizing awareness campaigns, litter clean-ups, and other environmental activities.

Guidelines for Students

1. Proper Disposal of Waste

- All students are expected to dispose of waste properly in the designated bins provided around the school, separating recyclables from non-recyclables, and organic from inorganic waste.
- Students should avoid single-use plastics and, whenever possible, bring reusable containers, bottles, and bags.
- If compostable materials are being used, the waste should be put in the compost bins.

2. Personal Responsibility

- Students should take responsibility for keeping their classrooms, corridors, and outdoor spaces litter-free.
- Any litter found should be reported to a member of the green schools committee.

3. Waste Minimization

- Students are encouraged to reduce waste by avoiding unnecessary packaging, reducing food waste, and sharing digital notes or resources instead of printing them.

4. Involvement in Clean-Up Events

- All students are encouraged to participate in, or support school-organized litter clean-up events. These events provide practical ways to engage in environmental responsibility and contribute positively to the school environment and their local environment.

5. Participate in Awareness Campaigns

- Students are encouraged to participate in awareness campaigns organized by the Green Schools Committee. Campaigns may include poster-making competitions, information sessions, and themed days to promote eco-friendly practices such as geography week and earth day.

Guidelines for Staff

1. Role Modelling

- Staff members should model good environmental practices by disposing of their waste correctly, using reusable containers, and avoiding single-use plastics when possible.

2. Encouraging Students

- Staff should encourage students to follow the litter and waste policy, reminding them to clean up after themselves and to use the bins provided.

- Staff should praise students who use the bins correctly to encourage future practice.

3. Minimizing Classroom Waste

- Teachers should aim to reduce waste in the classroom by using digital resources where possible, encouraging students to reuse materials, and recycling all paper waste.

4. Involvement in Environmental Initiatives

- Teachers are encouraged to participate in and support activities led by the Green Schools Committee and the Student Council, including litter-picking, themed days, and environmental awareness events.

Waste Reduction Practices

1. Recycling

- Recycling bins are placed in all classrooms, common areas, and outdoor spaces. These bins are clearly marked to help with proper disposal.
- Recyclable materials include paper, cardboard, cans, and plastics. No food waste or contaminated items should be placed in these bins.
- Washing out contaminated recyclable materials such as yogurt cartons, cans, soup cartons etc. will ensure that more items are recycled.

2. Composting

- Where feasible, compost bins will be available in the corridors and outdoor areas for the disposal of food waste and organic material. Where possible, the gardening club can use the food waste as fertile compost.

3. Reducing Food Waste

- The school encourages students to bring only the food they can eat and to take home any uneaten food. Any food waste generated is to be placed in compost bins.
- Students and staff alike are encouraged to eat their lunch from the canteen where possible.

4. Digital Resources

- Teachers and students are encouraged to use digital resources (e.g., sharing notes electronically, submitting assignments online) to reduce paper usage.

5. Reusing Materials

- The school encourages reusing materials whenever possible (e.g., binders, folders, bottles).
- Book rental will minimise paper waste in the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Waste Audits

- The Green Schools Committee, with assistance from student volunteers, will conduct intermittent waste audits to evaluate the school's waste management efforts. These audits will help measure progress and identify areas for improvement.
- Visual waste audits will be ongoing, formal waste audits will be carried out safely when appropriate.

2. Feedback System

- A feedback system will be established, where students, staff, and parents can suggest improvements to the litter and waste policy. Feedback can be given through designated feedback boxes or online forms.

Awareness and Education

1. Environmental Education

- Chanel College will incorporate environmental education into the curriculum where possible, emphasizing the importance of waste management and sustainability with the inclusion of geography week to promote this theme.

2. Workshops and Seminars

- The Green Schools Committee will organize workshops and seminars on waste reduction and recycling, inviting local environmental experts and community members to speak. Here they can relay the information to the rest of the student body.

3. Signage and Reminders

- Signs and posters around the school will remind students and staff of waste disposal guidelines, encouraging responsible practices.
- PowerPoints or presentations should be shown to students at the start of each academic year to remind them of the litter and waste policy.

4. Celebrating Green Milestones

- Chanel College will celebrate achievements related to waste reduction, such as receiving a Green Flag or meeting a waste reduction target, to boost community pride and encourage continued participation.

Policy Review

The Litter and Waste Management Policy will be reviewed annually by the Green Schools Committee and the school administration. Adjustments will be made as necessary to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant to the school's environmental goals.

Conclusion

Chanel College is dedicated to reducing waste, protecting the environment, and promoting sustainability. By working together-students, staff, and families-we can create a cleaner, greener campus that reflects our shared responsibility for a better world