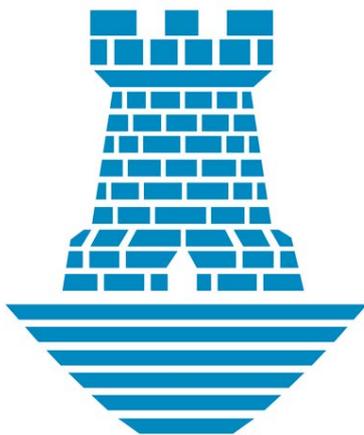


Newpark Comprehensive School

SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE SCHOOL POLICY



1. INTRODUCTION

This policy is designed to ensure that Newpark supports the work of parents in relation to encouraging our students to live responsibly. This policy was formulated in consultation with teachers, students and parents of Newpark.

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.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Purchase and promote re-usable water bottles. Discourage single-use plastic bottles in the hopes of eradicating it on campus.

2.2 Consult with stakeholders. Gain support from local shops. Endeavour to negotiate with the vendors currently serving Newpark

2.3 To examine the feasibility of composting more waste matter in the school.

2.4 Improve recycling – specifically correct sorting. Facilitate and encourage washing out of re-usable containers, and cleaning recyclable containers for recycling.

2.5 Educational initiatives to equip students with the knowledge and motivation to reduce plastic waste. Teach the hierarchy: REFUSE, Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle.

2.6 Carry out regular audits, and educational drives, to continuously re-enforce and embed the culture of Newpark being Plastic-Free.

2.7 Remove various single-use plastics on campus in steps:
(the first four to be completed by May 2018)

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

3. ACTION PLAN

3.1. The promotion of a Plastic Free Newpark will be addressed through a range of subjects at both Junior and Senior Cycle including Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Science, Home Economics, CSPE, Geography, Life Skills and Physical Education (PE), and form teachers.

3.2. Promotion of Plastic Free Newpark will be achieved through the use of visual displays throughout the school.

3.3. Information on Plastic Free practices will be available on the Newpark app, school website and in the school journal.

3.4. Visitors and guest speakers will be invited to offer their expertise on the subject.

- 3.5.** Consultation with the Student Council will take place on an ongoing basis to further develop and promote a Plastic Free Newpark.
- 3.6.** The food sold on the school premises will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is in alignment with the Single Use Plastic Free Policy.
- 3.7.** Water fountains at which students can refill bottles with clean drinking water are available on each floor of the main school building.
- 3.8.** Parents will be made aware of relevant information via the Newpark website, school app and through the PTA.

4. 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, students and staff. The review will be carried out by the Say No to Single Use Plastic Committee, which is made up of both students and teachers.

5. RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Newpark at its meeting in March 2018 and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Signed: _____ Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____ Secretary, Board of Management