

**CRESCENT COLLEGE
COMPREHENSIVE S.J.**



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**SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE SCHOOL
POLICY**

14TH May 2019

Crescent College Comprehensive, S.J.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE SCHOOL POLICY



1. INTRODUCTION

The Board of Management of Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. accepts that parents are first and foremost the primary educators of their children in relation to life choices. This policy is designed to ensure that Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. can support the work of parents in relation to encouraging students to live responsibly. This policy was formulated in consultation with teachers, students and parents of Crescent Comprehensive College S.J.

We acknowledge that some of the data out there is controversial, but nonetheless the change is indisputably valuable and warranted.

We are not banning Single-Use Plastic, for the simple reason that banning can a) lead to a resistant or defensive reaction, and b) is not the attitude we wish to convey. We seek a cultural change based on education and encouragement, not on force or policing. We will not use words such as 'rules', or 'banned', when implementing this policy initiative. We believe that this is both right, and will in the long run be the more rewarding approach.

1.1.1

Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. takes a whole school approach to developing this Single Use Plastic Free Policy. This creates a strong sense of ownership among all in the school community, with a commitment to sustain the improvements.

This Single Use Plastic Free Policy is influenced and guided by the mission statement and ethos of Crescent Comprehensive.

Extract from Mission Statement section: *Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. incorporates the characteristics of Jesuit Education. It seeks to develop fully each student's religious, moral, social, intellectual, physical and cultural sensibilities.*

By working to promote the full development of students' *religious, moral, social, intellectual, physical and cultural sensibilities*, we are contributing toward the provision of a healthy learning of stewardship of our environment.

1.2. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

This policy will serve to further promote the development of our students and is mindful of all parties.

1.3. RATIONALE

- 4.1. We want to educate the Crescent Comprehensive College S.J. community to take greater care of and responsibility towards the environment.
- 4.2. We want to shift the “disposable” lifestyle that has become our norm, and act to greatly reduce the current estimates that around 50% of plastic produced is used just once and thrown away. This is a cultural shift that we want embedded across our community.
- 4.3. According to plastic-oceans.org 14% of all litter comes from beverage containers. This is why we will make the stainless steel flask part of the school equipment list.
- 4.4. We want to help to conserve water. We want to equip our students with information such as: the process of producing bottled water requires around 6 times as much water per bottle as there is in the container.
- 4.5. 6 Reasons to go Plastic-Free:
 - i) Single-use disposable plastics have a massive carbon footprint. Whether made from petroleum or plants, plastic manufacturing is not efficient due to the scale of production.
 - ii) Plastic lasts forever: Plastic can never be broken down by natural processes; every particle of plastic that has ever been created still exists in a form toxic to all terrestrial and marine life.
 - iii) Plastics can be challenging to dispose of. Not all localities have the infrastructure to recycle single-use plastics; thus, many recyclable plastics take up valuable landfill space. When not able to be recycled or landfilled, they are often sent to incinerators, emitting environmental toxins into the atmosphere.

- iv) Plastic poisons our food chain: It is increasingly found in the ocean and guts of marine life, extending to affect the health of human populations who rely on fish and other marine life for food sources.
- v) Going plastic-free can save you money! Relying on reusable items enables you to avoid constant purchasing of disposable items.
- vi) Single-use plastic items perpetuate a wasteful, throw-away culture.
(from PLAN, plasticpollutioncoalition.org)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1. Purchase and promote re-usable water bottles. Discourage single-use plastic bottles in the hopes of eradicating it on campus. Make the stainless steel flask part of the first year school equipment list.
- 5.2. Set up composting in the canteen, staff room and Home Economics rooms.
- 5.3. Improve recycling – specifically correct sorting. Facilitate and encourage washing out of re-usable containers, and cleaning recyclable containers for recycling.
- 5.4. Educational initiatives to equip students with the knowledge and motivation to reduce plastic waste. Teach the hierarchy: REFUSE, Reduce, Re-Use, Re-cycle.
- 5.5. Carry out regular audits, and educational drives, to continuously re-enforce and embed the culture of Crescent Comprehensive being Plastic-Free. Try to make initiatives fun, such as a Bring Your Own Everything food event – where food is provided but they need their own lunchbox and cutlery to have it.
- 5.6. Take this initiative to remove various single-use plastics on campus in steps:
- 5.7. (the first four to be completed by April 2019)
 - 1. Plastic bottles
 - 2. Coffee cups, and other disposable cups
 - 3. Milk cartons
 - 4. Cutlery, straws
 - 5. We need to make composting a practice
 - 6. Efforts in home-economics, e.g., avoiding cling-film
 - 7. Efforts to embed our policy in purchasing decisions
 - 8. Efforts to reduce plastic packaging when making purchasing decisions
 - 9. Encouraging students to make efforts at home
 - 10. Keep evolving it as we learn more
- 5.8 We aim to review our Mission Statement with a view to having a greater focus on creating environmental awareness.

6. ACTION PLAN


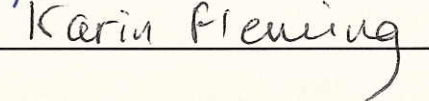
- 6.1. The promotion of a Plastic Free school will be addressed through a range of subjects at both Junior and Senior Cycle including Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Science, Home Economics, CSPE, Geography, Life Skills and Physical Education (PE), and form teachers.
- 6.2. Promotion of Plastic Free school will be achieved through the use of visual displays throughout the school.
- 6.3. Information on Plastic Free practices will be available on the Crescent Comprehensive College S.J. app, school website and in the school journal.
- 6.4. Visitors and guest speakers will be invited where possible to offer their expertise on the subject.
- 6.5. Consultation with the Student Council will take place on an on-going basis to further develop and promote a Plastic Free school.
- 6.6. The food sold on the school premises, currently contracted to private catering company *Get Fresh Catering*, will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is in alignment with the Single Use Plastic Free Policy.
- 6.7. Water fountains at which students can refill bottles with clean drinking water to be made available within the main school building.
- 6.8. Parents will be made aware of relevant information via the school website, school app and through the PTA.

7. 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 Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. Plastic Free Committee, which is made up of both students and teachers.

8. RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. at its meeting on 14th May 2019 and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Signed:  **Chairperson, Board of Management**
Signed:  **Secretary, Board of Management**