



children's books ireland

# climate action policy



children's  
books  
ireland  
every child a reader



children's  
books  
ireland  
every child a reader

### Children's Books Ireland/Leabhair Pháistí Éireann

receives financial assistance from

#### The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon,

70 Merrion Square,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

### Children's Books Ireland/Leabhair Pháistí Éireann

First Floor, 17 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, D01 R2F1

Telephone: 00 353 1 8727475

info@childrensbooksireland.ie

www.childrensbooksireland.ie

Charity Reg. No. 20040963

CHY number 12911

#### Follow us!



@kidsbooksirel



@childrensbooksireland



Children's Books Ireland



@kidsbooksirel



@childrensbooksireland.ie

**childrensbooksireland.ie**

**#EveryChildAReader**



funding  
the arts

Date policy first drafted:

April 2025

Date policy last updated:

April 2025

Date policy due for update:

January 2027

## Introduction

**Children's Books Ireland** is the national charity and arts organisation that champions every child's right to develop a love of reading. Our vision is simple: every child a reader.

Our mission at Children's Books Ireland is to inspire a love of reading in children and young people on the island of Ireland, and to champion equitable access for all to excellent books. We share our expertise and enthusiasm with the adults who guide and influence young readers, and encourage schools and early childhood settings to build a positive culture of reading and reading aloud. We support and promote authors and illustrators and connect them with their audiences through our work.

As the climate emergency worsens, it is imperative that all of us play our part to slow climate change and use what influence we have to encourage others to do the same. One of our strategic objectives is to minimise our impact on the planet and work sustainably. Children's Books Ireland is a small organisation, and the nature of our work means that, in many respects, our environmental impact is small. We rent a modest office in Dublin City Centre, which allows for employees and visitors to use public transport for their commutes, and our team works on a hybrid basis, which reduces travel emissions but necessitates a careful look at actions relating to digital impacts. Our work also involves connecting people: bringing writers and illustrators to schools all over the island and bringing speakers together with an audience for our Children's Books Ireland International Conference; travel and transport are areas to be examined. We also work with books and printed materials, gifting significant numbers of printed books to children and young people each year, and printing magazines and reading guides; this is an area which warrants careful consideration to ensure that we, and our suppliers, are compliant with the EU Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products (EUDR).

The aim of this policy, then, is to identify the areas where we can thoughtfully plan to reduce our own impacts on the environment and, crucially, influence the behaviours of our partners, suppliers and audiences.

## Our Values

### **Excellence:**

We are an energetic, creative, and flexible organisation, and we take pride in maintaining an extremely high standard across all our work and supporting an equally excellent and committed sector. The people who make up Children's Books Ireland care deeply about encouraging every child to be a reader, and ensuring that every child has access to the best quality books.

*We will bring this commitment to excellence to this policy and plan, and hold ourselves to a high standard when making decisions that have an impact on the world around us.*

### Connection:

We nurture an environment that is vital to children's reading, and work in partnership with those who share our aims. Children's Books Ireland is at the heart of the children's book community.

In line with Sustainable Development Goals 17 Partnerships for the Goals, we will use our influence to encourage our partners and audiences to reduce harmful impacts on our planet.

### Warmth:

We are open, friendly, fair and accessible in all our interactions and activities. Kindness and inclusion are paramount to how we work, and we look for these values in our partners.

We will bring this openness to our examination of our own impacts, and bring kindness to our conversations with partners as we try to bring about positive change in relation to the climate emergency. Fairness is at the heart of what drives us to consider our impacts – it is only fair that each of us play our part to reduce our own harmful impacts on the planet.

### Joy:

We know that reading can delight, excite, and enhance the lives of children and young people, and we are excited to share that in our communications, our publications and at our events. Children and young people benefit significantly from reading, and while we raise awareness of these benefits with adults, we talk to children about enjoyment. We provide opportunities for young readers to have joyful experiences with reading and to delight in the artforms of writing and illustration.

Climate action preserves our planet for future generations, and every action we take to reduce harmful impacts and implement positive changes in ours and others' behaviour is a step towards a healthy, thriving world for young readers.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Children's Books Ireland worked with Change by Degrees to align our strategic objectives with the SDGs. Aligning with these goals can help Children's Books Ireland to strengthen our impact and contribute to a larger global movement. Many of our activities touch on multiple goals, but we identified a small number which were especially relevant:

### UN SDG 4: Quality Education

Children's Books Ireland's Strategic Aim to encourage a love of reading in children and young people directly supports SDG 4, which aims to provide quality education for all. SDG4 is a key enabler of most other SDGs. Without additional measures, the UN estimates that 300 million students worldwide will lack basic literacy and numeracy skills by 2030; accelerating progress towards SDG 4 should be prioritised as it will have a catalytic impact on achieving the overall 2030 Agenda.

We believe that developing a positive culture of reading for joy from early childhood through secondary school is the most powerful way to ensure that every child has the chance to become a reader, regardless of their background. We share our expertise and enthusiasm widely and our work contributes to the development of essential reading skills, which are crucial for overall educational success.

By 2030, one of the targets for this goal is to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. At Children's Books Ireland we promote and, through our book-gifting programmes, provide, a diverse range of books, allowing children to gain knowledge about different cultures, ideas, and perspectives, which enhances their learning experience.

### UN SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

We aim to give *every* child and young person an opportunity to become a reader, giving them equitable access to the many benefits of reading, and opening up a lifetime of stories for all children

regardless of their background. We create opportunities for every child to become a reader, with most supports for those with the highest level of need.

One of the targets of SDG 10 is to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all by 2030, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Children's Books Ireland showcases and provides books to children and young people which feature positive representation of diverse characters and cultures, and encourages understanding and inclusion, which contributes to reducing social and cultural inequalities.

### UN SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Children's Books Ireland's work at the heart of the children's books community in Ireland aligns with SDG 17, which emphasises the importance of partnerships for achieving the goals. We rely on many strategic partnerships to achieve our aims and to grow our impact, and we are part of an international community of reading promoters, all of whom are working towards the same objectives: to encourage all children to read for joy.

We work with various stakeholders, including schools, libraries, bookshops, publishers, authors and illustrators, charities and other organisations, to effectively promote a love of reading among children. These partnerships allow us to broaden our reach and impact, creating a network of support that drives progress toward the UN SDGs. By working together, we can contribute to achieving not only the specific goals mentioned above but also to the broader UN SDG framework.

## Our Strategy

### Printed products

One of our strategic objectives is to produce inviting, accessible publications which showcase excellent Irish children's literature, and keep our community informed about international books, trends and developments. This includes three issues of *Inis* magazine each year and a number of recommended reading guides which are distributed to schools, bookshops and libraries all over the island of Ireland. Given the volume of print we commission, we have a significant opportunity here to improve our planning processes to reduce waste, and ensure that we are using sustainable materials when we do print.

We also print ancillary items such as bunting, stickers, bookmarks and posters for our campaigns. We have stopped using single-use pull-up banners, large printed signage (e.g. timetables on foamboard) and conference programme booklets at our events in order to reduce waste. These items have been replaced or made redundant by using reusable banners or digital displays. We have also commissioned illustrations as part of our organisational brand identity which allows us to have reusable Children's Books Ireland bunting, lanyards and t-shirts for a variety of purposes rather than printing per event or programme. Where we do commission printed items, we aim for them

to last for a number of years e.g. the printed panels at the Ireland stand at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

We are aware that the carbon footprint of printed books and other items vs digital reading depends on numerous factors, including how frequently an item is read, how an item is disposed of, the materials used to make the item etc. We take into account various factors when deciding whether to print an item or not, primarily the necessity of printing that item in order to have our desired impact.

### Aim

Strive to use sustainable materials when print, and improve our print planning processes to reduce waste.

### Actions

- Implement a strict planning process for print quantities on all printed items to reduce the likelihood of waste and ensure that only essential items are printed.
- Conduct a sustainability audit with our print suppliers, seeking further information about print processes, packaging, waste management and carbon footprint, so that we can be confident that we are partnering with responsible businesses.
- Investigate the cost of using sustainable papers and/or inks for all our print materials, ideally seeking out paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which comes from responsibly managed forests which adhere to high environmental and social standards.

### Travel

As a hybrid workplace with some employees working fully remotely, we have significantly reduced the need for our team to travel since 2020. Weekly team meetings are held online, with the majority of other meetings of our employees and board also being online. Our central location in Dublin allows for active travel and public transport within Ireland, and we have a clear hierarchy of preference for all travel, whether by employees, artists or audiences:

Active travel – walking, bicycle etc.

Public transport – bus, train, tram

Car pooling

Private car

We recognise that some of our work in schools requires private car travel, generally owing to timetabling or availability of public transport, and in these instances we make every effort to car pool. We facilitate the Cycle to Work Scheme and TaxSaver Commuter Ticket Scheme for

employees. Our venue for the Children's Books Ireland International Conference is specifically chosen so that our audience can reach it easily by active travel or on public transport.

There are also occasions when our team will need to travel to mainland Europe or further afield, or when we invite international artists to our conference or other events. As an island nation, air travel has been our default mode of transport on these occasions, as travel by land and sea is not always practical, but we will explore options for these trips both for our team and incoming artists.

#### Aim

Minimise the negative impacts of travel on the environment.

#### Actions

- Survey our Children's Books Ireland International Conference audience to understand how they travelled to the venue, and increase efforts to encourage sustainable travel.
- Outline the hierarchy of preference for travel in all artists' contracts across our book-gifting programmes, Awards and Conference.
- Take green modes of travel where feasible for all business travel.

#### Our digital footprint

As a hybrid workplace, and a small organisation without an internal IT function, it is essential that our team has a shared understanding of how to minimise our environmental impact so that each person can take responsibility for their own footprint. Our web page achieves a carbon rating of E – lower than global average.

#### Aim

Implement processes which reduce our digital footprint.

#### Actions

- Repair older devices to extend their life when possible and correctly dispose of old devices where necessary.
- Keep the battery levels of devices between 20 and 80 per cent as this ensures a longer battery life.
- Don't leave devices plugged in at full charge. Charge for short and regular intervals as this also increases the battery life. Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Shut down devices when not in use, especially at night. Laptops should be fully shut down a minimum of once a week and not left 'sleeping' over weekends or holidays.
- Reduce the brightness of screens and use dark mode (or grey mode for mobile). This not only saves energy, but also reduces eye fatigue and dry eyes.

- Manage data efficiently – delete duplicate files or older versions, delete old unused files particularly large images and video files, reducing the data stored in data centres. Delete videos and images from phones and other devices after filing in Dropbox.

## Within our premises

### Aim

Manage our energy usage, waste management and office supply procurement to minimise our impact on the environment.

### Energy usage

Our energy supplier, SSE Airtricity, provides electricity from 100% renewable sources, and we make every effort to ensure that we only use the energy we need, both for financial and energy efficiency. Our office is in an older building, which can be challenging to heat in the winter, but as it is a rented premises we have limited power to make significant structural changes. We benefit from significant natural light, negating the need for artificial lighting for much of the year.

### Actions

- Minimise ‘energy vampires’ in the office, draining unnecessary energy. Plug out chargers when not in use and switch the following off completely every night: photocopier/printer, franking machine, plug-in heaters, shredder, all monitors and lamps.
- Actively manage heating timers so that the office is warm enough in winter and heating is reduced as the weather gets warmer.

### Waste management

Since the lockdowns of the Covid-19 pandemic, Children’s Books Ireland’s team has worked on a hybrid basis, with almost all of our team working from home at least some days. Very few employees have or need access to a printer, so this has reduced unnecessary printing. We do, however, receive a large volume of books through the post, many in plastic envelopes or padded mailers. In our Dublin city centre location, we separate waste into general waste, mixed dry recycling and cardboard per the requirements of our waste management supplier.

### Actions

- Reuse the majority of cardboard boxes and packaging materials received when dispatching from the office, reducing both the need to purchase materials, and the amount of waste.
- Ensure that our waste is sorted appropriately to ensure that recyclable products are properly processed. Display posters in the office so that staff members understand what can and cannot be recycled.
- Recycle any out-of-date printed materials which are no longer of use.

### Office supplies

Children's Books Ireland is a relatively light office supplies user, with the exception of envelopes to send books to our reviewers. We also send digital files to many of our reviewers in place of hard copies, avoiding the need for postage and packaging. Our finance department became paperless in 2021, which was a significant paper saving.

### Actions

- Switch to 100% recycled paper and eco-friendly stationery.
- Use our existing supply of plastic mailing envelopes and explore options for paper or other packaging which will reduce our reliance on single-use plastic.

### Programming and partnerships

Children's Books Ireland has an opportunity to use our reach to best effect, to lead and influence in relation to sustainability through the artform of children's literature. We have worked with corporate partners to highlight books about sustainable communities and to make sure children have access to these books. We have also published themed reading lists on protecting our planet for primary and secondary school students, showcasing solution-focused stories that both celebrate our natural world and highlight how we can continue to care for it. By sharing the benefits of climate action through literature, we can emphasise to young readers the value of living sustainably and give them the understanding that they have some agency despite the seriousness of the climate situation. This can help alleviate climate anxiety and build a positive mindset towards climate action.

When we run events, we are careful to partner with venues whose values in relation to sustainability align with our own. We encourage our audiences to travel sustainably, to bring reusable coffee cups and water bottles. We endeavour to avoid using single-use items such as coffee cups or plastic glasses for guests or speakers and request that cafes or catering at our events do the same.

### Aim

Use our influence through our programming and communications to encourage sustainable behaviours among our audiences, and lead through our own actions.

### Actions

- Ensure that titles from the Protecting Our Planet reading lists are in every school library we donate so that children have wider access to books that will inspire and encourage them to be sustainability champions.
- Encourage event attendees to travel sustainably and to avoid single-use items by bringing reusable water bottles and coffee cups.

- Explore the potential for corporate partnerships in the area of sustainability.
- Communicate the changes and impacts to our audiences as proud sustainability champions.

| Aim                                                                                                                       | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Owner                                            | Timeframe | Budget/resources                                                                | Outcome/KPI                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Strive to use sustainable materials when print, and improve our print planning processes to reduce waste.</b>          | Implement a strict planning process for print quantities on all printed items to reduce the likelihood of waste and ensure that only essential items are printed.                                                                                                           | Deputy CEO                                       | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Print waste is reduced, avoiding the need for recycling excess print                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                           | Conduct a sustainability audit with our print suppliers, seeking further information about print processes, packaging, waste management and carbon footprint, so that we can be confident that we are partnering with responsible businesses.                               | Deputy CEO                                       | Q3 2025   | None                                                                            | We can be confident that our suppliers are operating as sustainably as possible                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                           | Investigate the cost of using sustainable papers and/or inks for all our print materials, ideally seeking out paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which comes from responsibly managed forests which adhere to high environmental and social standards. | Deputy CEO                                       | Q3 2025   | There may be additional cost associated with using sustainable papers and inks. | Our publications will be printed on sustainable papers, funding allowing.                                                                             |
| <b>Minimise the negative impacts of travel on the environment</b>                                                         | Survey our Children's Books Ireland International Conference audience to understand how they travelled to the venue, and increase efforts to encourage sustainable travel.                                                                                                  | Research & Evaluation Officer                    | Q3 2025   | Staff time                                                                      | We can build a clearer understanding of how our audience travels and make efforts to influence their choices in future.                               |
|                                                                                                                           | Outline the hierarchy of preference for travel in all artists' contracts across our book-gifting programmes, Awards and Conference.                                                                                                                                         | Book-gifting Manager, Programme & Events Manager | Q4 2025   | Staff time                                                                      | Increased sustainable travel across all projects.                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                           | Take green modes of travel where feasible for all business travel.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | All staff                                        | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Increased sustainable travel among staff.                                                                                                             |
| <b>Implement processes which reduce our digital footprint.</b>                                                            | Repair older devices to extend their life when possible and correctly dispose of old devices where necessary.                                                                                                                                                               | Office Manager                                   | Ongoing   | Costs unknown, but should ultimately save budget                                | Extended lifespan for digital devices avoiding disposal of older machines.                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                           | Keep the battery levels of devices between 20 and 80 per cent as this ensures a longer battery life.                                                                                                                                                                        | All staff                                        | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Extended lifespan for digital devices.                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                           | Don't leave devices plugged in at full charge. Charge for short and regular intervals. Unplug chargers when not in use.                                                                                                                                                     | All staff                                        | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Extended lifespan for digital devices, increased battery life and reduced energy consumption.                                                         |
|                                                                                                                           | Shut down devices when not in use, especially at night. Laptops should be fully shut down a minimum of once a week and not left 'sleeping' over weekends or holidays.                                                                                                       | All staff                                        | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Reduced energy consumption.                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                           | Reduce the brightness of screens and use dark mode (or grey mode for mobile).                                                                                                                                                                                               | All staff                                        | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Reduced energy consumption.                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                           | Manage data efficiently – delete duplicate files or older versions, delete old unused files particularly large images and video files, reducing the data stored in data centres. Delete videos and images from phones and other devices after filing in Dropbox.            | All staff, led by Deputy CEO                     | Ongoing   | None                                                                            | Reduced data storage resulting in reduced energy consumption.                                                                                         |
| <b>Manage our energy usage, waste management and office supply procurement to minimise our impact on the environment.</b> | Minimise 'energy vampires' in the office, draining unnecessary energy. Plug out chargers when not in use and switch the following off completely every night: photocopier/printer, franking machine, plug-in heaters, shredder, all monitors and lamps.                     | All staff, led by Office Manager                 | Ongoing   | None; this should result in a cost saving                                       | Reduced energy consumption.                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                           | Actively manage heating timers so that the office is warm enough in winter and heating is reduced as the weather gets warmer.                                                                                                                                               | Office Manager                                   | Ongoing   | None; this should result in a cost saving                                       | Reduced energy consumption.                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                           | Reuse the majority of cardboard boxes and packaging materials received when dispatching from the office, reducing both the need to purchase materials, and the amount of waste.                                                                                             | Office Manager                                   | Ongoing   | None; this should result in a cost saving                                       | Reduced consumption of office supplies.                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                           | Ensure that our waste is sorted appropriately to ensure that recyclable products are properly processed. Display posters in the office so that staff members understand what can and cannot be recycled.                                                                    | All staff, led by Office Manager                 | Q3 2025   | Staff time                                                                      | Recyclable products will be processed more efficiently.                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                           | Recycle any out-of-date printed materials which are no longer of use.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Office Manager                                   | Q3 2025   | Staff time                                                                      | Papers can be recycled rather than dumped.                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                           | Switch to 100% recycled paper and eco-friendly stationery.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Office Manager                                   | Q1 2026   | There may be additional cost associated with using sustainable products.        | Reduced environmental impact.                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                           | Use our existing supply of plastic mailing envelopes and explore options for paper or other packaging which will reduce our reliance on single-use plastic.                                                                                                                 | Office Manager                                   | Q1 2026   | There may be additional cost associated with using sustainable products.        | Reduced environmental impact.                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                           | Ensure that titles from the Protecting Our Planet reading lists are in every school library we donate so that children have wider access to books that will inspire and encourage them to be sustainability champions.                                                      | Book-gifting Manager                             | Q4 2025   | None                                                                            | Children and young people will have increased access to fiction and non-fiction titles which spread a positive message in relation to climate action. |

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                |         |            |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Encourage event attendees to travel sustainably and to avoid single-use items by bringing reusable water bottles and coffee cups. | Programme & Events Manager,<br>Communications Manager, Social<br>Media Officer | Q3 2025 | None       | We will reduce single-use plastic and coffee cup consumption at our events.                                                |
| Explore the potential for corporate partnerships in the area of sustainability.                                                   | Development Managers                                                           | Q1 2026 | Staff time | We will work in partnership with organisations that share our vision and values to progress sustainable development goals. |
| Communicate the changes and impacts to our audiences as proud sustainability champions.                                           | Communications Manager, Social<br>Media Officer                                | Ongoing | Staff time | Other organisations or individuals may be influenced by us and adopt sustainable practices in their own lives.             |



children's  
books  
ireland

every child a reader

**childrensbooksireland.ie**

-  @KidsBooksIrel
-  @kidsbooksirel
-  @childrensbooksireland
-  Children's Books Ireland
-  @kidsbooksirel
-  @childrensbooksireland.ie

**childrensbooksireland.ie**

Email: [info@childrensbooksireland.ie](mailto:info@childrensbooksireland.ie)

Tel: +353 (1) 872 7475

Address: Children's Books Ireland, First Floor,  
17 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1, D01R2F1