

Press Release

Another Green Flag in Swords

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Ken Farrell walked from his office on Monday 23rd May to perform the fourth flag raising ceremony at St Colmcille's Girls National School in Swords. The fourth Green Flag is awarded on the Travel Theme sustainable travel and the Mayor said he walked to show his appreciation of the work done by the girls to promote sustainable travel. This ceremony marks another important achievement in the long running campaign to promote good environmental behaviour to young people in Fingal through this simple and extremely effective Green Schools education programme.

Pupils of St Colmcilles Girls National School are leading by example when it comes to showing awareness of the environment. They received their first Green Flag Award in 2005. They successfully renewed their flag on the energy theme in 2007, on the water theme in 2009 and again in 2011 on the travel theme. Congratulating the students, the Mayor said from his experience with the Green Schools Programme, we have been shown time and again that it is our youngest residents who are often the best champions of key environmental messages.

The whole school is very committed to the Green School's program. This is due in no small way to the input of Marian O Connell, teacher and green schools coordinator who has expertly guided the programme in St Colmcilles, with the support of all of the staff and Principal Bernadette Murtagh. The local community is very proud of the school's green achievements and all have noted traffic reductions on Wednesdays when the pupils have COW (cycle on Wednesday) and WOW (walk on Wednesday) days to reduce their carbon footprints.

The Green Schools programme is operated in partnership by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce and Local Authorities throughout the country. The Irish Green-Schools programme is one of the most successful within the participating nations. Over 75% of all Irish schools are currently involved and in excess of 1,600 schools have been awarded the Green Flag.

ENDS 23/5/11