

Flag 1 is Litter and Waste

We use green bins and fruit and skins bins in all classrooms, offices and in the staff room. The bin inspectors make sure we get it right. They monitor the bins and the level of waste in the school. We also encourage the use of lunchboxes instead of sandwich bags, tinfoil or cling film.

There are posters - encouraging recycling - around the school.

Environmental awareness and care studies are a big part of the curriculum in Science and Geography for all classes.

We hold an Annual Fashion Show using recyclable materials. This year the theme was green Halloween and we made some fantastic costumes - all from recyclable materials.

Flag 2 is for Energy

Green schools committee members monitor energy usage in school. This year alone we have reduced our bill by an amazing 500 euro since September.

Children in each class are appointed as energy monitors and ensure lights and interactive whiteboards are turned off when not in use.

There are signs on light switches and the green schools committee make sure all the lights and IWB's are turned off when not in use.

Flag 3 is the Water flag.

Water is very important, without it we could not survive, so we need to do our best to conserve water. The green schools committee members monitor water usage in the school. They make sure taps are turned off and that there are basins used in the class rooms.

Water bottles have been put in the toilet cisterns to reduce the amount of water used when flushing.

Water butts collect rainwater around the school for use in the school garden.

Water cycle, water pollution and water conservation are topics covered in the curriculum through Science and Geography.

We also encourage everyone to use reusable/refillable bottles.

Flag number 4 is for Transport

Walk on Wednesday and Cycle on Wednesday initiatives are in operation in the school. The golden boot and silver wellie are awarded to the classes with the most walkers. The Green schools committee record the number of children walking each

week and the golden boot award is awarded to the class with the highest levels of walking. The Silver Wellie was introduced for 2nd place due to demand.

The winners are announced at assembly and on the school website. We hope to introduce the bronze slipper for third place this year!

Cycling lessons for 5th class take place in the third term each year and Road safety lessons take place in all classes.

Flag number 5 is the Biodiversity Flag

Our school garden is thriving. Last year we linked with a school in India for a garden project. We have took part in a seed exchange and plan to plant native Indian flowers and vegetables in our garden and indoors in our school, leading to a study on climate and availability/import of food in to Ireland. 4th class completed a project on the banana and how it gets from plant to our fruit bowls. 2nd class completed a study on the grain train and how grain is transported. Biodiversity is a topic covered by all classes as part of the curriculum.

Finally, Flag number 6, which we are raising today is all about - Global Citizenship - Litter and Waste.

We undertook a global awareness survey and a Nationalities Survey. This year there are children from 23 different countries in our school.

We held a day of action where every class did projects on where our food comes from. They found out all about food miles and carbon footprints and presented their projects to the rest of the school in May last year.

Our schools also joined recreate to help us source recyclable art supplies for all our art projects.

The green schools committee found out about how other countries deal with waste.

We also developed a School code - Before you finish eating your breakfast in the morning you have depended on half the world - Martin Luther King

We investigate and made environmentally friendly cleaning products.

We introduced a No cut flowers policy.

A Local Supermarket Survey of the origins of fruits and vegetables in our locality was also completed.