

Harold School, Glasthule, Co. Dublin

Harold School is a mixed primary school located in Glasthule, Co. Dublin. The school registered with the Green Schools Programme in 2007 and received their first Green Flag for Litter and Waste in 2009. The school is a large 24-teacher school with approximately 500 children. There is a large ancillary staff and a very active Parent's Association.

When the school was forming their Green Schools Committee, representatives from the various groups associated with the school on a daily basis were included i.e. pupils, parents, teachers, caretaker and secretary.

Based on the findings of the environmental review, the Green School committee identified a number of targets for their Litter and Waste action plan. In order to achieve these targets, the school took a number of actions; litter patrols were set up; batteries were collected to be recycled; a tree of life was erected; the school participated in Tidy Schools in the local community, and were awarded an Achievement of Excellence award; and the school garden was developed and maintained and the tubs were planted with spring bulbs.

In conjunction with Tom Byrne, Chief Parks Officer in Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council, the school is actively involved in planting bulbs in the park across from school and oak saplings on Killiney Hill. These oak saplings were grown from acorns by children from 6th Class.

The school community are kept informed and involved by means of School Newsletter. A section of the school newsletter has been given over to the Green Schools Committee. A Green Schools Notice Board was set up, which provides details of committee members, updates and details of local recycling facilities, competitions etc. The school has also placed a Green Schools suggestion box beside the notice board.

The school places "before" and "after" pictures on the notice board to show results and the good work of the litter pickers in the yard and surrounding areas.

Regular announcements are made via the intercom as necessary.

Photographs and short articles have appeared in local papers where the school had become involved in the local community such as the Day of Action.

The school held two Days of Action. The first day was a National Spring Clean/Tidy Towns initiative. The school participated in this initiative with the local Tidy Towns Committee. For this initiative, the school took part in two projects. For the first project, the students chose an area in their local community which was badly in need of clearing and tidying. Teachers and students gathered together on a Saturday morning armed with forks, shovels, brushes and dustpans. They weeded, clipped, swept, dug, and cleared the area as well as painting railings, doors and gates.



Children planting trees

For their second project, students decided to transform a dull, blank wall in their playground with a mural of bright, colourful flowers using the children's handprints as petals. All 495 children participated in the project and the school intends to add to this mural every year as new children join the school.



The school wall before



The school wall after

For their second day of action, the school invited Jim Fitzgerald from WEEE to give a presentation to all classes from 4th to 6th about recycling batteries and electrically operated small items. Two bins were left in school for a week and parents were invited to bring in small electrical items for recycling. The initiative was a great success and raised awareness amongst children and their parents that small electrically and battery operated items can be easily recycled.

As the school is located in an urban setting, traffic congestion has been a problem in the past due to children travelling to school by car. To address this issue, Harold School encouraged their students to take part in “Ag Siúl to School”, which promoted walking as an alternative mode of transport to school.



In order to develop an effective green code, the children on the Green Schools Committee were asked to come up with ideas. They decided to use the word HAROLD as a framework and were given a week to come up with suggestions. From this they developed the school's Green Code. The children on the Committee distributed a copy of the code to each room in the school. A copy is also on the Green Schools Notice board and in various prominent locations around the school.

The schools Green Code is:

Help the planet

Aware of pollution

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Organise your waste

Look for Litter

Duck down and pick up rubbish

