

Green-Schools Case Study – Litter & Waste

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh Cailíní, Bishopstown Girls National School, Cork

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh Cailíní is a 200 student primary school in Bishopstown, County Cork. They received their first Green-Flag for their hard work on Litter and Waste in 2009.

The Green-Schools Committee consists of 2 children from every class above infants plus 2 teachers (1 co-ordinator) and 3 parents and had been meeting regularly for the past two years. The school has kept a school garden for many years and have always been encouraging wildlife in the grounds, so the development of their Green Schools ethos has been on-going for a number of years. They have been composting organic waste in the school for 6 years before starting on the Green Schools programme!

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh undertake National Spring Clean every year and are very aware of 'Litter Bugs'! Cork City Council's Litter Warden, Noel Long came to the school to talk to the students about his job and how they must all do their bit in looking after the environment. The students decided to make items out of recyclable material for their Action Day.

An extensive review was undertaken of litter and waste in the school, including a physical bin audit, plus the Caretaker has been monitoring the bins being collected. They also contacted their waste service provider and discussed what items could be taken for recycling. 5th Class Waste Monitors check the bins in all classes and 6th class do litter monitoring around the school. They also have established Water Monitors to check the toilets and taps after break daily.

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh have reduced their waste to landfill from 1x140l bin per week to 1x70l bin, so they are now looking at just having a collection once a fortnight.

The classes have done a lot of Green School work which was evident in the Action Day. Posters have been made, poems and stories have been made up. They consider that they have been a Green School for years.

They have a visible notice board with details of the committee, their action day and photos. They had an article in a local paper/newsletter for the Bishopstown area talking about their Green Schools work.

They had a competition for the Green code and have picked 'Reduce Reuse Recycle', which is sung to the theme of *Grease!*

An example of the student's "Litter Art".

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Bottles used as bird feeders and sweet containers.



Litter Art Handbags!

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Students decided to make the recycling bins in school more interactive by putting samples of what they could recycle on the bins! That made sure there were no mix-ups!



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Getting their Green Flag!



Photo: Kevin Ryan, Environmental Awareness Officer, Cork City Council; Jim Wilson, Irish Wildlife Film Services; Michael Hehir, Repak; Teacher Mary Tobin and Students from Scoil an Spriod Naomh.