

**Scoil Bhríde Boys is a primary school located in Blanchardstown village in Dublin 15. This school was built in 1983 and at present there are 293 boys and 20 teachers in the school. The school registered for the Green Schools Programme in 2007 and have recently received their first Green flag for Litter and Waste.**

There are 33 people on the Green School's Committee comprising of students, teachers, SNA's, maintenance staff and parents. The committee meets once a term or whenever an issue or decision arises. The minutes are taken by one of the teachers and incorporated into the action Plan. Committee members report back to their own classes. The co-ordinator updates the whole staff at staff meetings or sends around a memo.

As part of their participation in the Green Schools programme, the school conducted a review of the school's interior and exterior. The school was divided up into zones; children were assigned a zone and completed a "Pre Spring Clean Survey."

The school decided that they should take part at the kinds of waste they were producing within the school, particularly within the classrooms. The committee members were paired up and each pair interviewed different teachers in their classrooms. These actions allowed the school to identify what exactly was going into their bins.

Two students from 6<sup>th</sup> class conducted a lunch box survey to see how many boys used a lunch box. After their enquiries it was concluded that only ½ the boys used a lunch box. A note was sent home to parents informing them of their findings encouraging the rest of the boys to use lunchboxes, and therefore reduce the amount of waste created by unnecessary lunch wrappings such as Clingfilm and tinfoil.

The Green Schools committee agreed that regular monitoring was necessary to make sure everyone kept up the hard work. All of the classroom teachers monitor the usage of the different bins on a daily basis as they realise that the school's progress depends entirely on every class pulling its weight. The committee also receives regular updates from the cleaners who empty the bins everyday.

The monitoring and evaluation process directly informed the school's action plan. Scoil Bhríde Boys School realised that everyone had relaxed their attitude towards waste over the summer holidays so it was decided that an Awareness Week was needed. During the awareness week, the school discovered that some classes were not doing so well so the committee focussed on these classes in the form of more regular spot checks and a demonstration of good practice from the Committee.

When the school started their Green Campaign, all teachers were asked to involve the class in 2 lessons outlining the benefits of becoming a Green School. Discussion, art work and interactive websites were used to introduce the children to the green ideal. For the Green Schools Awareness Week, a PowerPoint presentation was put together that was shown to all classes during the week.

The whole school community was informed and updates regarding their Green Campaign through the Green Schools Notice Board, internal memos, updates at staff meetings, committee members reporting back to individual classes, letters home to parents and feedback to the Board of Management.

For their Day of Action, the school participated in the National Spring Clean in April. All classes took part in a clean-up of their own room. A huge effort was made to send as much recyclable waste to the green bin as possible; this was so successful that the school had to store the excess waste until the following week's collection!

The school's Green Code was agreed by the committee and a copy of it was placed in every room in the school.

“Small changes,

Big difference”

