

2016



Green-Schools Travel Annual Report





An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is the foremost environmental organisation in Ireland. Its range of interests extends from the natural heritage of land, air, water, flora and fauna, to the heritage of buildings and gardens. Through its local, national and international networks, it seeks to educate, inform and lead public opinion on the environment and influence policy and development. Strategies to achieve these aims include awareness and education programmes and campaigns such as:

Green-Schools • Green-Schools Travel • Blue Flag • Clean Coasts • National Spring Clean • Green Communities • Green Home • Green Campus • Young Reporters for the Environment • Learning About Forests

www.greenschoolsireland.org

FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education) – seeks to promote environmental education by carrying out campaigns and improving awareness of the importance of environmental education. It is composed of a network of organisations which undertake individual projects in their own countries and participate in international efforts. An Taisce, as the Irish member of FEE, co-ordinates these campaigns in Ireland.

A key objective of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is the promotion of sustainable transport. The Department takes a two pronged approach to increasing sustainable travel rates: investment in infrastructure to support cycling and walking; supported by the active promotion of cycling and walking as healthy, cheap and safe ways to travel. The Department has provided funding for the Green-Schools Travel programme since 2008 to educate children and their parents on the benefits of sustainable transport and to encourage them to reduce the number of cars on the school run.

The National Transport Authority, through its predecessor the Dublin Transportation Office, sponsored An Taisce Green-Schools to establish the Green-Schools Travel theme. The National Transport Authority now oversees An Taisce's Green-Schools Travel module on behalf of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. We are delighted with the success of the programme in reducing the numbers of pupils travelling to school by car, improving their health and fitness, reducing the economic and environmental impact of the school run, and delivering a safer pupil-centred front of school environment.



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



Údarás
Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

smartertravel>>>
>>> schools

Contents

ii	Executive Summary
2	Introduction
3	Big Changes in Schools
4	Modal Shift
6	Walkability Audit Results
8	Action on the Ground
19	Case Studies
21	Infrastructure Supporting Schools
22	Appendix 1

Executive Summary

The Green-Schools Travel theme has been operating at a national level since 2008. The theme is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and supported by the National Transport Authority. The Green-Schools seven-step methodology is a key component and enables most participating schools to achieve modal shift within a two year period. Key achievements for the year include:

- Participating schools achieved a reduction in car journeys to school of 21% from the initial baseline survey undertaken in 2014. Of the 44% of students who were driven to school, 13% of these car share. When car journeys and park 'n' stride journeys are combined, there is still a reduction of 7.5% from the baseline figure.
- The proportion of students walking to school increased by from 19% to 23%.
- Cycling levels to school increased by 50% over the same two year period, from 3% to 4.5%.
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly walking events is 49%, up from 2.4% in 2014
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly cycling to school events is 14%.
- 202 schools were awarded the Green Flag for Travel in May 2016.
- 196 schools were invited to participate in the Travel theme in September 2016 bringing to approximately 404 the total number of schools working on the theme in the calendar year 2016.
- Green-Schools Travel Officers completed 2921 visits to schools over the 2016 calendar year. This level of direct support is essential for schools implementing the programme.
- In 2016, 19 schools availed of 380 spaces for scooters.
- 380 bicycle spaces were provided to 26 schools participating in the theme in 2016.
- Over 4,244 students from 89 schools received subsidised cycle training as part of the programme.
- Over 36,400 students walked to school on National Walk to School Day; over 5,900 cycled to school on National COW day as part of National Bike Week, and over 4,200 students scooted to school on National Scoot to School Day.
- In 2016, the Green-Schools Travel competition entitled 'the Big Travel Challenge' sought entries from Awarded and Active schools. Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois was awarded the overall winner of the Travel Competition and was named Ireland's Travel School of the Year 2016.
- The Green-Schools website received over 122,202 visits during the year.



36,400+

students walked to school on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day 2016

5,900+

students cycled to school on National COW (Cycle on Wednesday) Day 2016



4,200+

scouted to school on National SOW (Scoot on Wednesday) Day 2016





208

Green-Schools flags were awarded for sustainable travel in May 2016



2,921

school visits made by Green-School Travel Officers



200

print and broadcast items featuring Green-School Travel

Introduction

Green-Schools, known internationally as Eco-Schools, is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. The Green-Schools programme operates in over 3,500 primary and secondary schools across Ireland. The Travel theme is the fifth theme of the programme and is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and supported by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the Travel theme is to raise awareness of active and sustainable travel as well as promoting modal shift.

Green-Schools works with participating schools to increase the number of students walking, cycling, scooting, carpooling, and using public transport, through the implementation of the seven step methodology. The seven step methodology of the Green-Schools programme includes; encouraging schools to carry out an audit of their students travel patterns at the beginning of their programme; increasing awareness of sustainable travel among the school's community; developing and implementing a travel action plan to promote mode change on the journey to/from school; and monitoring and evaluating progress on an ongoing basis.

This report outlines the work undertaken by schools during 2016, some of these schools began the two year theme in September 2015, some completed the theme in June 2016 and others started the theme in September 2016. Therefore the range of activities undertaken throughout the calendar year is a snap shot of the work schools are engaged in at different stages of the two year programme.

The opportunity for modal change varies according to school profile, school location and the availability of services and infrastructure. However the vast majority of schools achieved some level of modal change on the journey to school and schools that completed the theme in 2016 achieved on average a 21.4% reduction in car journeys to school over a two year period.

Big Changes in Schools



WALKING FIGURES INCREASED FROM **19%** TO **23%**

14% OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY CYCLING EVENTS



49% OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY WALKING EVENTS

93% Would PREFER to TRAVEL by a SUSTAINABLE MODE

Modal Shift

Schools around the country have worked hard to engage pupils, support parents and motivate teachers to make the change from car journeys to sustainable journeys to school. There were over 404 schools nationwide working on the Travel theme during 2016; these schools were at different stages of the theme and some finishing the theme and some only beginning their journey. The Travel theme takes two years from start to finish and the 7 Steps are the vehicle which schools use to successfully achieve the Green Flag Award.

The schools which completed the Travel theme in 2016 achieved changes in terms of the journey to school with walking increasing by 19.8% and cycling increasing by 50% from 3% to 4.5%. The number of cars arriving at the school gates has reduced by 21.4% and of the 44% of journeys taken to school by car, almost 13% of these are shared journeys. When car journeys and park 'n' stride journeys are combined, survey results show a reduction of 7.5% from baseline figures.

The changes not only took place in large, urban schools but also in smaller rural schools. These changes took place even though schools faced big problems such as a lack of basic infrastructure, reduced capacity within the school and diverse school profiles and locations. There is evidence to suggest that where infrastructure is available

pupils have a greater choice when it comes to how they come to school. The percentage of pupils walking increased where pedestrian facilities were in place as did the percentage of pupils cycling to school; the only exception being the presence of traffic calming appears to make no difference to the numbers who cycle. This confirms the need for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that supports permeability and connectivity in and around schools.

There is evidence to suggest that schools who run weekly walking and cycling days have a higher number of pupils walking or cycling to school throughout the week compared to schools who do not run these initiatives. The participation of weekly walking days (WOW, Feet First Fridays, No Car Tuesdays etc) is 49.1%. The proportion of students who walk to school in these participating classes is 25.6% compared with the average of 23%.

There is consistent evidence to show that awareness of sustainable and active journeys increases as pupils participate in the Travel theme. This is reflected in the number of pupils who wish to travel to school in a sustainable way. The majority of pupils (51.8%) show a preference for cycling to school. In reality however the number of pupils who actually cycle to school is 4.5%, therefore barriers are still in place when it

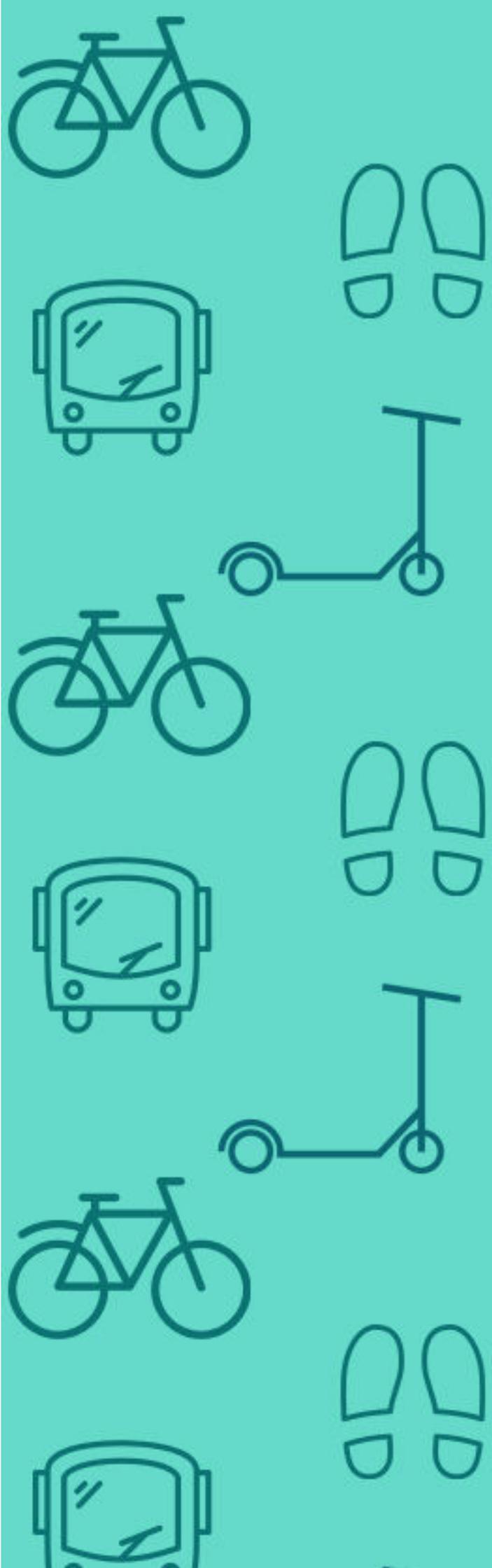
Survey findings show that there is a greater potential for an increase in walking and cycling where students have appropriate facilities and infrastructure in place.

Walking Average 23%	Traffic Warden Service 35.3%	Pedestrian Crossing 26.2%	Traffic Calming 28.5%	Footpath 27.9%
Cycling Average 4.5%	Cycle Training 5.2%	Cycle Parking 6%	Cycle Path 8.9%	Traffic Calming 4.4%

comes to pupils switching to cycling. The question is what are the main barriers and how can schools, parents, local authorities and Green-Schools help pupils to make the switch.

For those students who expressed a preceding preference for walking or cycling, 27% and 12.6% like to travel this way because they consider it good for the environment, while 20.2% thought walking was good for health and fitness and 5.6% of those who prefer cycling considered this mode to be good for health and fitness. Another significant finding shows that of those preferring cycling, 35.1% considered it to be quicker.

Survey results showed that the majority of schools involved in the programme are located within 30km/h or 50km/h zones; 17% within 30km/h zones and 56% in 50km/h zones and just under a quarter are situated in zones with higher speed limits. Out of 44 schools situated in these higher speed limit zones, only one school has a traffic warden service, and two schools have pedestrian crossings, however some traffic calming and footpaths exist in these areas.



Walkability Audit Results

During 2016, Green-Schools committees, with the guidance of Green-Schools Travel Officers, conducted walkability and cycleability audits, the findings of which were then submitted to the relevant Local Authorities. Many of these audit reports have yielded infrastructural improvements nationwide.

Below: Crossings upgraded to include ramps in order to slow traffic at Leitrim Village NS and St Patricks NS (underneath), Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

Next page (from top): Two new crossings outside Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Ballymote, Co. Sligo; New crossing outside Four Masters NS, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim; Road improvements at crossing outside St Brigits NS, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER





BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Action on the Ground

The Green-Schools Travel programme is delivered through practical workshops and school visits that meet the individual needs of each school promoting sustainable journeys. Green-Schools Travel Officers work directly with schools to implement the programme and to provide advice, resources and training to students, staff and parents over the two years of the theme. Green-Schools Travel Officers made **2,921 school visits** during 2016.

Infrastructure Funding

Green-Schools Travel continued to administer Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport funding for cycle training and cycling parking in 2016. Over 4,244 students from 89 schools received subsidised cycle training as part of the programme and 380 bicycle spaces were provided to 26 schools participating in the theme in 2016. Due to the success of the SOW initiative and Scoot to School Week in 2014 and 2015 respectively, Green-Schools Travel realised the opportunity in providing scooter parking at schools and were successful in securing €25,000 to install scooter parking at schools. In 2016, 19 schools availed of 380 spaces for scooters.

4,244

the number of pupils that received cycle training

380

the number of scooter parking spaces installed

380

the number of bicycle parking space installed

89

the number of schools that received cycle training funding

2538

the number of WOW days

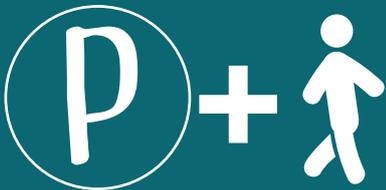


1222

the number of COW days

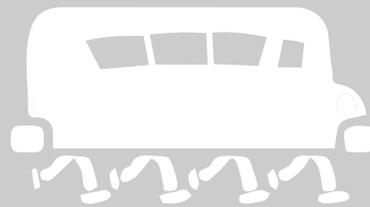
1387

the number of
Park 'n' Stride days



557

the number of
Walking Buses



306

the number of
Walkability Audits



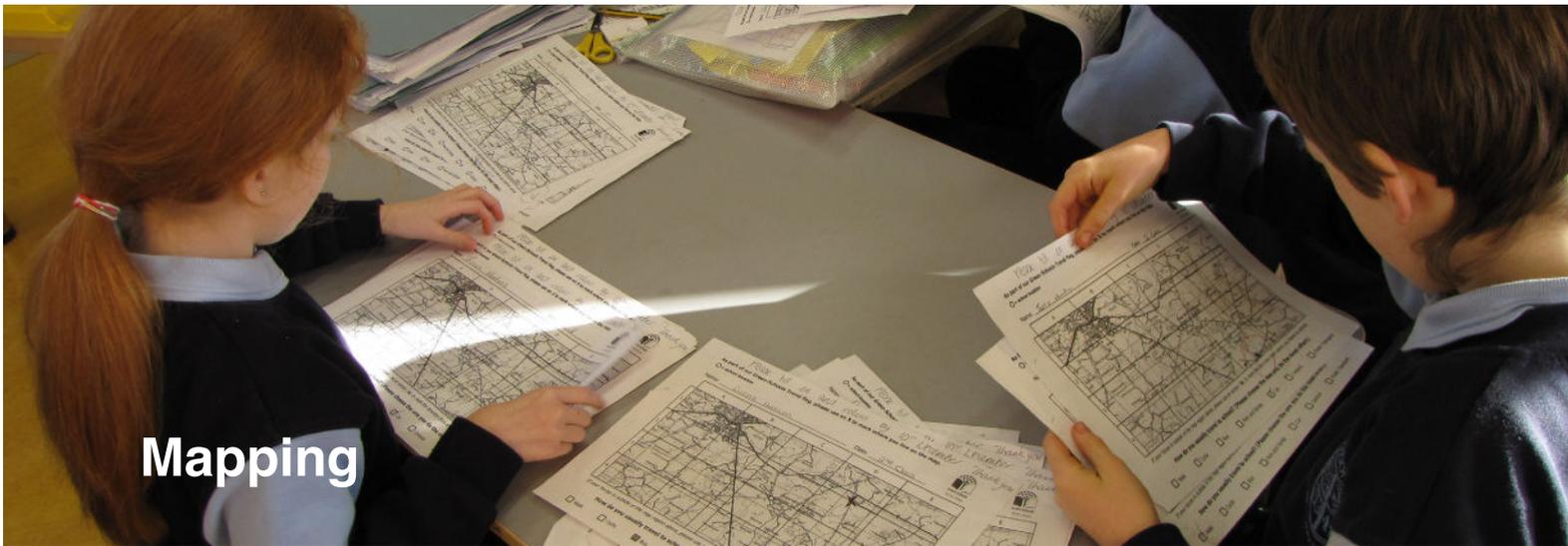
129

the number of
Cycleability Audits

Some examples of what happened in schools...



Walkability Audit



Mapping



Cycle Skills

during visits from Green-Schools Travel Officers in 2016



Scooter Skills



WOW days



Dr Bike Workshops

National Events

Students around Ireland participated in **National Walk to School Week**, with 36,400 students nationwide walking to school on National WOW day, which fell on May 18th in 2016. Schools took part in events such as sponsored walks, fancy dress walks to school, road safety talks and health and fitness days throughout the week.

National COW day was held on June 15th as part of **National Bike Week**. A large number of schools registered that they had participated in National COW day, with 5,900 cycling on the day. Primary schools held lots of different events during the week, including cycling training, bike skills, cycle trips, bike maintenance and competitions.

National Scoot to School Week ran from March 9th – March 13th, 2016. In spite of very poor weather during the week, a total of 3801 students scooted to school on National SOW day. In 2016, Green-Schools Travel teamed up with Micro Scooters, the leading provider of children's scooters in Ireland and the UK, to provide scooters as prizes for schools who took part in National SOW Week. There were 50 scooters and 70 scooter packs awarded to schools that held Scoot to School days around the country during that week.





Action on the Ground

Post-primary Schools

Post-primary schools have had a busy and successful year on the Travel theme. Supported by Green-Schools Travel Officers, these schools have achieved considerable success promoting sustainable and active travel. Two post-primary schools had notable success this year by winning the Big Travel Challenge 2016; these were Tallaght Community School and Coláiste Íosagáin. Both are large secondary schools with pupil cohorts over 700. Over a ten day period, Tallaght Community School increased the number of pupils walking to school by 148 pupils. Coláiste Íosagáin increased the number walking to school by 461 pupils. A total of 17 post primary schools were awarded the Green-Schools flag for Travel in 2016.

Considerable research and development of Green-Schools Travel in post primary schools was conducted during this academic year. Qualitative research included a focus group with staff and pupils in five large secondary schools. This was followed by a quantitative survey sent to 102 coordinators. In response to the main findings of this research, a new post primary resource booklet was developed and launched in 2016. This booklet incorporates sustainable travel education into subject specific lesson plans with a full Transition Year Unit. We also created new secondary specific workshops and guidance documents including the following;

- Introduction to Green-Schools Travel,
- Travel and Climate Change,
- Achieving a Successful Post-primary Committee,
- Maintaining an Effective Notice Board,
- Walkability Audit Template Maps,
- Food Miles,
- Mapping Pupil Locations with Google Maps,
- Post-primary Bicycle Guide

Cycle Right

Green-Schools communicated with all schools to inform them of the roll out of the national standard. The standard will be supported by Green-Schools and cycle training funds will be available to schools that undertake the course from January 2017 onwards. In March, 2016, Travel Officers undertook a Cycle Right

Assimilation course in Kilkenny. The assimilation training provided an opportunity to update skills from the U.K. Bikeability training. Cycle Right is the National Standard for Cycling Training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists.

Travel Competition

Green-Schools Travel ran the national competition, 'The BIG TRAVEL Challenge' during February 2016. The aim of the challenge was to get schools to increase the number of students who travel to school in an active, sustainable way over a 10 day period. The challenge showed that schools could achieve increases in walking, cycling and scooting over a short period of time and during a cold, wet month. There were eight category winners and one overall winner. The list of winners can be reviewed in Appendix 1.



Bike Week - Dutch Embassy Event

Pupils from Loreto Senior Primary School, St. Damian's N.S., St. Mary's B.N.S. and, Sandford Parish N.S. participated in a roundtable discussion on cycling as part of Bike Week 2016. The pupils began the morning by meeting the Dutch Ambassador to Ireland. This was followed by a Skype conversation with a school from the Netherlands, in which the schools explored the differences in cycling between the two countries. After a short break it was down to work as the pupils discussed different aspects of cycling and how to get more people cycling.

Teacher Training Summer Course

In 2016 teacher training courses were offered to schools during the summer break for the seventh year. The courses were run in July and covered many areas of environmental education and sustainable development across all of the Green-Schools themes. They took place in Dublin, Meath/Louth region and in Cork and one day was dedicated to the travel theme. The courses included lessons on sustainable and active travel which focused on road safety, walkability audits, and raising awareness of the travel theme.

Teacher Training Autumn Seminars

There were 25 seminars introducing teachers to the theme of sustainable travel, held between September and October 2016. The seminars were organised and delivered by Green-Schools Travel Officers in the following areas: Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Mayo, Meath, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford & Waterford.

Travel Forum

On November 16th a Green-Schools Travel forum was held in Pearse Street library for schools in the Dublin City Council area. The aim of the forum is for children to learn from each other with one awarded school acting as a model school. A total of eight schools attended on the day including the presenting model school, St Mary's National School in Sandyford. The other schools got lots of ideas from St Mary's about how they approached the travel theme, as well as their ongoing work promoting sustainable travel.

Smarter Travel Schools Maintenance Pilot Awards

In 2015, as part of the Green-Schools Maintenance Pilot programme, six awarded travel Schools in Galway City and three in Oranmore, Co. Galway were invited to take part in a one year travel maintenance pilot project. Two Travel Officers worked with the schools including three secondary Schools and six national schools. The visits included an initial stakeholder meeting with parents, teachers, and principals; baseline and follow on classroom surveys; classroom workshops and the promotion of national Green-

Schools Travel events including National Walk to School week and National Scoot to School Week.

Key findings included schools are maintaining and promoting initiatives such as the National WOW Day and walking buses, all of the schools benefited from the pilot interventions and became reengaged with sustainable travel initiatives. Unfortunately no infrastructural improvements were carried out by the Local Authorities due to the time constraints of the project. All participating schools were awarded with a certificate and a pennant at a special coffee morning in the G Hotel in Galway City.



Green-Schools EXPO

On February 25th Green-Schools hosted the first ever Green-Schools EXPO. The event took place in the Industries Hall of the RDS where over 4,000 primary and secondary students attended from all over Ireland. There were over 20 schools showcasing their innovative work over six of the Green-Schools themes. President Michael D. Higgins was in attendance on the day. He visited and spoke with all of the showcasing schools exhibits and gave an inspiring key note speech. The EXPO was a wonderful opportunity for schools to share ideas, showcase their achievements and get well deserved recognition for all the teachers, students and schools' hard work at promoting and practising environmental management. The feedback received from schools was very positive with students simply saying it was the 'best day

TRAVEL

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Sport

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Náisiúnta
National Transport Authority

GREEN-SCHOOLS EXPO 2016



WELCOME

OUR BOOTS

enÉrgia

IT'S SO
Cool
in
School



5th Year
St. Peter's
Catholic
School

Action on the Ground

ever'. The Expo featured on News2day, 2FM, local radios and TG4 are made a 30 minute show about it. The event was nominated for an Event Industry Award for 'Best Exhibition'.

Conferences

Empower Conference, Maynooth

The EMPOWER Conference at NUI Maynooth was held on Monday 9th September 2016, in association with the Louth-Meath Education and Training Board. Over 300 students attended and participated. The conference created an opportunity for second level school students to engage in peer teaching and demonstrates a commitment to valuing student voice and encouraging creative solutions to difficult problems. Green-Schools Travel Officers ran an information stand, met with pupils and conducted training workshops. The event was very successful and a chance to bring more awareness of Green-Schools Travel among second level schools.

Zeminar, RDS Dublin

The Zeminar event was designed as a platform to introduce young people to innovative organisations. It was aimed at those aged between 15 and 20 and their parents, teachers, mentors and coaches. The three day event took place in the RDS, Dublin, from October 11th - 13th 2016. Green-Schools Travel Officers ran an information stand, met with pupils, teachers and Green-School Coordinators. The stand was interactive with educational games, interactive displays and mini talks happening throughout the day.

Sustainability Gathering 2016

Jane Hackett, GST National Manager, was invited to participate in the Sustainability Gathering 2016 in Dublin Castle on Tuesday 22nd November. The event was focused on the key agencies and stakeholders that work within the sustainability sector in Ireland.

Road Safety Authority

Jane Hackett, GST National Manager, was invited to participate in the RSA Annual Strategy review in Dublin Castle on Monday 14th November. Green-Schools is recognised as a partner organisation in relation to the delivery of walking & cycling safety education.

Data Collection & Cycling

Green-Schools took part in a pilot project which is being run by Dublin City Council. A start up company, Fluid Edge, are trialling the use of a bike bell to capture data relating to cycling. One secondary school, St. Michaels Dublin 4 has trialled the bell to capture data as part of their cycleability audit.

Green Flag Awards

In the month of May 2016, 208 Green Flags were awarded for the theme of travel to schools, in recognition of their success promoting and implementing the travel theme. Eighty one percent of these schools had started work on the Travel programme in 2014 and had therefore successfully completed the Travel theme within a two year period of the Green-Schools programme. Only the remaining 19% of Travel schools awarded in 2016 started the theme before September 2014 and had required a longer period for successful implementation due to their individual circumstances. The successful travel schools in 2016 were awarded their flags at awards ceremonies held at seven venues around the country: Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Mayo and Westmeath.

Communications

Website

The Green-Schools website enjoyed a busy 2016 and began the 2016/2017 academic year with a complete redesign. The redesign has reduced the number of pages users have to click through and has streamlined access to information, resources, case studies and the Green Flag application forms. Throughout the year the website continued to attract large numbers of visitors, with high numbers of pageviews and visits to the site, including the pages related to the Travel theme. The website is monitored by Google Analytics and the key statistics for the site are calculated from January 1st 2016 - December 31st 2016:

Pageviews: 364,010

Visits/Sessions: 122,202

Unique visits/sessions: 88,293

Green-Schools Travel is a prominent theme on greenschoolsireland.org. Pages related to the

Action on the Ground

theme are placed highly in the pageview rankings on the website. Like all Green-Schools themes Travel has a theme page with links to case studies, relevant news items and videos. There is also a longer-form theme page with more information and a resources page which allows users to search for resources related to each of the Green-Schools themes. All of these are easily navigable from the homepage. The homepage also has a news section which often features stories related to the Travel theme and links to Green-Schools social media sites.

Social Media in 2016

Twitter, Facebook & Instagram - During 2016 the presence of Green-Schools on Twitter continued to grow and the year ended with an increase of 1,100 followers, ending the year with 4,700 followers, as of December 31st 2016. From September 1st to November 30th, the Green-Schools tweets earned 214,200 impressions on Twitter. Schools regularly use Twitter to connect with Green-Schools and share images of their Travel theme activities. During National Walk to School Week, Bike Week and on National Scoot to School Week schools were encouraged to share with us on Twitter, using hashtags.

Alongside Twitter, Facebook is one of Green-Schools' main social media channels. Starting with 1,776 'Likes' in January 2016 the account finished the year with 2,365. News and images related to the Travel theme and Travel events are ever present on the Green-Schools Facebook timeline.

The programme also uses the image sharing site Instagram, where the year finished with approx 280 followers.

Twitter: www.twitter.com/greenschoolsire

Facebook: www.facebook.com/greenschoolsire

Instagram: Instagram.com/greenschoolsire

Broadcast & Print Media

Green-Schools Travel events and initiatives were widely covered in print, online and broadcast media during 2016. Approximately 220 print and broadcast items across regional and national media, and school websites, featured Green-Schools Travel during 2016. This figure is

approximate as no national clipping service is employed by An Taisce at present.

National print and online media coverage included an article in the Irish Times covering the Green-Schools Expo in February 2016, an item on the Green-Schools programme in the Independent in September; photos from National WOW Day and the Travel awards in the Irish Times and Irish Independent in April and May.

Radio mentions and coverage of the programme were high and included regional radio covering local events such as WOW Days and local schools' involvement in national events like Scoot to School Week. The Green-Schools Expo was also covered on RTÉ's Nicky Byrne show.

During 2016 Green-Schools Travel featured on television. RTÉ's News2day show covered a number of events in the Green-Schools Travel calendar while TG4 Duíche covered the Green-Schools Expo.

During 2016 many schools also featured their own Green-Schools Travel programme on their own websites and in community newsletters. Both are effective methods of circulating news and informing and involving the wider community in school activities.

Case Studies

St Mary's

Holy Faith Secondary School

Glasnevin, Dublin 9

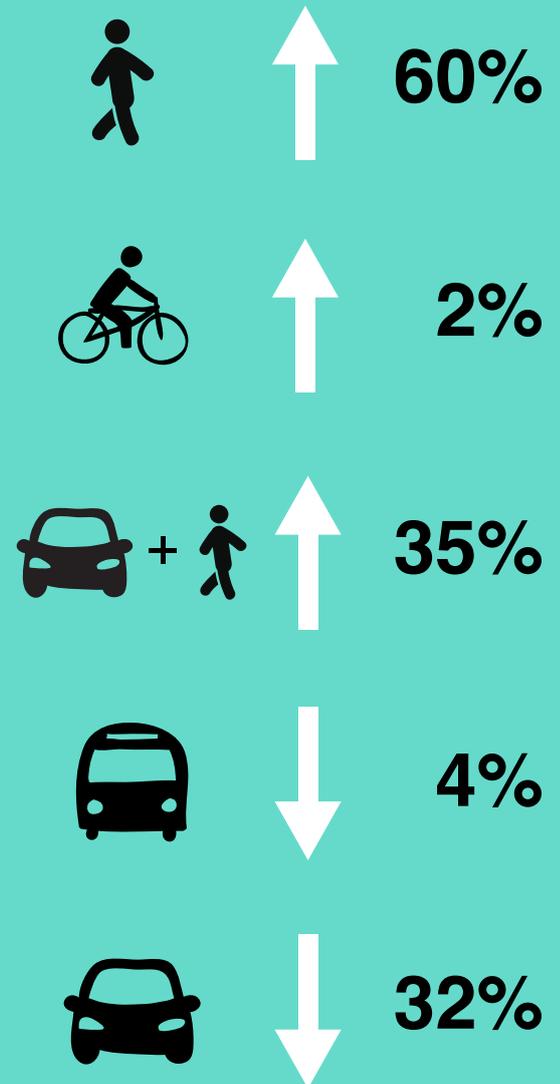
St Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School is a large secondary school for girls, with approximately 723 pupils and 60 staff, located in the busy urban area of located in the Glasnevin. Work commenced on the Travel theme in September 2015 with an advertising campaign and interviews for the committee. This approach created a committed and talented Green-Schools Committee who was representative of the whole pupil cohort.

They began with a digital mapping workshop using GIS, which illustrated where all pupils travel from and quickly identified the most popular routes. The committee decided to begin by promoting walking and Park 'n' Stride. The school was very successful, ran fantastic initiatives that involved the entire school and were even featured in the local paper, The Northside People.

Key Actions:

- Created a digital map of pupil locations and travel destinations
- Completed a Traffic Survey and Walkability audit to identify safe park 'n' stride locations
- Created a map with 3 designated Park 'n' Stride areas and circulated it to parents through the school app
- Held assemblies to educate each year group about sustainable travel
- Made announcements during staff briefing and presented to the Parents Committee.
- Updated the Green-Schools notice board regularly with a travel fact of the week and survey results
- Created Green-Schools social media pages
- Held Action planning workshops and Climate Change and Travel workshops
- Held regular monthly Walk on Wednesday events and placed the dates in the school calendar in the website
- Entered 'The Big Travel Challenge'

Modal Change



St Mary's NS

Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim

St Mary's National School is 135 pupil mixed primary school located in Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. The school started the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2014 when most pupils (80.4%) travelled to school by car.

The school was hesitant to engage with the programme as there were concerns about pupil safety due to traffic congestion at the school gates and on the pedestrian crossing and nearby footpaths, and prior to commencing the theme they were working with a health and safety advisor to draw up a parking plan. This was abandoned when Lisa McDaniel, Travel Officer, highlighted to the principal increased walking and cycling would reduce the traffic and parking issues. The principal embraced the programme and as a result, approximately 60% of students travel to school using sustainable modes of transport every day.

Key Actions:

- Identified three Park 'n' Stride locations through conducting a walkability audit, the findings of which were communicated to the parents
- Held weekly WOW days with 80% participation
- Participated in both off-road and on-road cycling training
- Received An Taisce sponsored cycle parking shelter
- Secured funding from Leitrim Sports Partnership during Bike Week 2016, which allowed for mechanics to visit the school to replace tyres, brakes and fit bells on the children's bicycles

Modal Change



How infrastructure supports schools

Scoil Asicus Naofa, Strandhill, Co. Sligo

Scoil Asicus Naofa is a 230 pupil primary school located in the seaside village of Strandhill in County Sligo. They started working on the programme in 2010 with 92% of pupils being driven to the school gate causing traffic congestion and safety concerns. The principal and staff gave huge encouragement to the programme and continue to do so in 2017.

Travel survey results recorded in 2012 illustrated the significant modal shift. More pupils were walking to school (8% in 2010 to 19% in 2012), pupils had started cycling (16%) and most of the car users were using the Park 'n' Stride location at the nearby church (57%). In 2012 there were very few cars travelling down the road to the school, therefore making it very safe for walkers and cyclists. Scoil Asicus Naofa have had huge success with the programme and five years on, it is evident that the programme has instilled a culture of sustainable travel with the large numbers of students walking, cycling and scooting to school every day.

Subsequent to the school working on the Travel theme, Sligo County Council have made significant improvements to the walking and cycling infrastructure throughout Strandhill village. Improvements include a ramped pedestrian crossing close to the school; speed ramps on both approach roads; cycle lanes from the village into Sligo town and a footpath to the crèche, which students utilise to get to crèche for afterschool care. The school has discouraged parking at the school gates and have installed bollards at the entrance, which has resulted in many families Park 'n' Stride from the nearby church carpark.



Recipe for Success:

- Huge encouragement from staff and support from parents and community
- Park 'n' Stride location at the church
- Weekly WOW / COW /SOW
- Children meet from housing estates and walk, cycle and scoot together
- Improvements in infrastructure since working on the travel programme include:
 - Footpaths and cycle paths to estates on top road
 - Footpath to crèche for afterschool
 - Pedestrian crossings in village
 - Bollards at school entrance to prevent parking at school

Appendix 1

National Travel Competition Winners 2016

Overall Winner

Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois

Walking Category

Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois

Tallaght Community School, Tallaght, Co. Dublin

St. Maelruins JNS, Tallaght, Co. Dublin

Monaleen NS, Castletroy, Co. Limerick

Cycling Category

Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Scouting Category

Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig, Lucan, Co. Dublin

Park 'n' Stride Category

Scoil Chroí Íosa, Blarney, Co. Cork

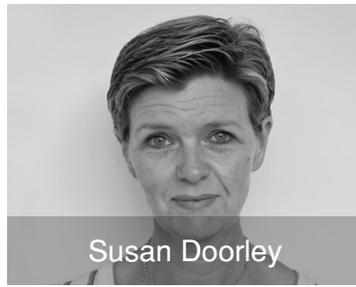
Rathcoffey NS, Rathcoffey, Co. Kildare



Jane Hackett



Angela Wall



Susan Doorley



Tiarnan McCusker



Camilla Tunney



Hans Van De Ven



Fiona Barry



Martha Gouldsbury



Caitriona Cunningham



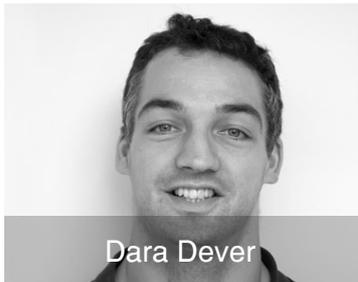
Ciara Norton



Mieke Scholte



Ally Menary



Dara Dever



Lisa O'Grady



Laura Dixon



Noleen Doyle



Áine O'Loughlen



Ray Foley



Sorcha Brophy



Ellen Murphy



Sean Hartigan



Róisín Ní Gháirbhith



Lisa McDaniel



Chiara Hanrahan



Caroline Murphy



Karen Moore

OUR TEAM



Green-Schools

 An Taisce



Is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes whole school action towards a sustainable environment through the implementation of the Seven Step methodology. It is known internationally as Eco-Schools.

W: www.greenschoolsireland.org
E: greenschools@antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 222



Encourages a partnership approach to environmental management in third level educational institutions. The programme places significant importance on the inclusion of all sectors of the campus community in environmental management, protection and enhancement.

W: www.greencampusireland.org
E: greencampus@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 211



The Blue Flag is an international, voluntary, eco-label awarded for beaches and marinas. The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development at beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education/information, environmental management and safety.

W: www.beachawards.ie/www.blueflag.org
E: blueflag@antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 210



Is Ireland's largest and most popular anti-litter initiative. The campaign runs every April and encourages all members of the community to actively participate and take responsibility for their immediate environment. By participating in clean-ups, groups are making a positive and important contribution to their community.

W: www.nationalspringclean.org
E: nsc@antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 212



Is an anti-litter programme for secondary schools. It involves students working with their peers to develop initiatives to tackle litter in their schools and local area. The programme is designed to facilitate and develop leadership, project management, citizenship and communication skills among students.

W: www.neatstreets.org
E: neatstreets@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 222



Is about protecting and enhancing our beaches, seas and marine life. It strives to improve the economic and aesthetic value of the coastline for community and visitors alike by involving local communities in beach management and encouraging them to be guardians of their coastline.

W: www.cleancoasts.org
E: cleancoasts@antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 210



Provides practical action based tips and information on ways to save money and help to protect the environment. Green Home empowers householders on their journey towards sustainable living and promotes behaviour change on the themes of waste, energy, water and travel. Green Home is operated in partnership with the EPA.

W: www.greenhome.ie
E: greenhome@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 218



Greening Communities seeks to shine a light on communities that are working for themselves to make their community a better place to live and work. The Programme is a joint initiative of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Environmental Protection Agency and An Taisce.

W: www.greeningcommunities.ie
E: greeningcommunities@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 229



Works towards empowering community groups to improve their local environment, enhance biodiversity and reduce their resource usage. This is largely achieved through community environmental improvement initiatives. These initiatives are supported by training sessions; action based environmental activities; and field trips.

W: www.greencommunitiesproject.org
E: moss@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 202



Is a programme that reconnects students with our forests. Through interactive learning and field trips the programme educates students to be more conscious of protecting our environment and instilling in them a sense of ownership of the natural world that surrounds them. Coillte's Curragh Chase Forest Park in County Limerick will be used as a fantastic natural resource and focal point for off-site training and events in the South-West region.

W: www.learningaboutforestsireland.org
E: learningaboutforests@antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)87 3500426



Young Reporters, aged between 11 and 21, investigate environmental issues and problems and propose solutions through investigative reporting, photographic or video journalism. Run in 34 countries around the world An Taisce is the National Operator in Ireland and focuses on the YRE Litter Less campaign.

W: www.yre.global
E: yre@eeu.antaisce.org
T: +353 (0)1 4002 213