

# Green-Schools Travel

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# Contents

# TRAVEL

## Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce

4

### Executive Summary

Key achievements in 2019: a busy and exciting year for Green-Schools Travel, which saw increased participation in sustainable travel initiatives, the creation of new campaigns and the development of new projects.

6

### 2019 Participation

2019 saw participation levels in walking, cycling, scooting and other sustainable modes continue to grow. Schools worked hard at promoting sustainable travel to school throughout the year.

8

### Supporting Schools in 2019

Photographic highlights from Green-Schools Travel supporting schools in scooting, walking and cycling initiatives for the 2019 academic year

12

### Call to Action Events

Green-Schools Travel has four key call to action events which are celebrated annually with participating Travel and awarded Travel schools, as well as with families and the wider community.

24

### Campaigns and Projects

Green-Schools Travel participated in a new project and developed two new campaigns, which were particularly successful in engaging secondary school students.

36

### Skills and Training

In addition to teacher training, Travel Officers provide cycle and scooter skills training to current Travel schools.

42

### Infrastructure Improvements

One of the many invaluable supports made available to schools through Green-Schools Travel is the opportunity to apply for infrastructure at their school. A case study details how a school uses the Walkability Audit to improve infrastructure both within and around the school's grounds.

48

### Case Studies

Five case study examples of different schools, from secondary to primary, and from rural and urban, and how they have approached working towards achieving the Green-Flag for Travel.

## A word from our Director, Michael John O'Mahony



We live in a dynamic and changing world. More than ever climate change and its impact is now a very challenging reality. The business and life as usual scenario is no longer viable. However, this situation provides us all with an opportunity and a necessity to not just do things better but to do better things. Since 2005 the Green-Schools Travel Programme has been working with and supporting tens of thousands of students, teachers and their wider school communities to make long term change in the way they

travel to and from school to more sustainable modes. The programme allows all of us involved to continually listen, learn, lead and change when it comes to school travel. Every day significantly more students walk, scoot and cycle to school due to their engagement with the programme. A key outcome of the programme is that all these schools have acquired and developed the problem solving capacity and creativity to sustain the changes and adapt them as their circumstances change and to do better things when it comes to school travel. The participants have illustrated that they have enjoyed the experience and are

keen to engage further with their wider communities and advocate, encourage and lead. We have all experienced and appreciate the health and societal benefits such as cleaner air, less GHG emissions; less traffic congestion and a quieter, safer environment that the programme has facilitated. This report outlines the outcomes, achievements and results of the Green-Schools Travel programme in 2019. At its core Green-Schools Travel is a multi-scale partnership of schools, students, teachers, parents, Local Authorities, the National Transport Authority, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, the various other local programme supporters and the Green-

Schools Travel team. Without this partnership the programme wouldn't work. I want to particularly acknowledge and thank the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS) for their ongoing and crucial support and funding of the programme. I am constantly in awe of the skills, creativity, commitment, insight, wisdom and abilities of my colleagues in the Green-Schools Travel team to make the programme what it is and to make it even more than what can be captured in a report like this one. Thank you to everyone involved. You are all making a real difference and we all benefit.

# Executive Summary TRAVEL



2019 was a busy and exciting year for Green-Schools Travel, which saw increased participation in sustainable travel initiatives, the creation of new campaigns and the development of a revision theme - Global Citizenship Travel. Following the 2018 Green Flag award ceremonies, 663 schools were invited to participate in the Travel theme for the 2018/2019 academic year. During the autumn semester, Green-Schools Coordinators and teachers were invited to avail of teacher training in partnership with Local Authorities, the training focused on introducing teachers to their new Green Flag themes. Travel Officers delivered 31 training events nationwide to coordinators on the Travel and Global Citizenship Travel themes.

2019 kicked off with the Big Travel Challenge in February which celebrated its fifth birthday with hundreds of schools participating in the 10 day challenge. St. Peter's N.S. from Dro-miskin, Co. Louth was named 'Ireland's Travel School of the Year' following their efforts to increase the number of staff and students walking to school.

Other key events which took place during the year included; Scoot to School Week in March, Walk to School Week in May and Bike Week in June. In addition Green-Schools Travel premiered Ireland's first Clean Air Week in October 2019. The week-long initiative is the newest campaign from Green-Schools Travel and is focused on raising awareness

of air pollution at school gates. The campaign encourages students to develop their own clean air focused campaign or to make a pledge to #BeatAirPollution in order to create a healthy environment around the school gate and to increase the number of students who actively travel to school.

The Green-Schools Travel programme was selected to present at the international Velo City Conference which took place in June 2019. The conference was attended by thousands of delegates from around the world and Green-Schools presented on cycleability audits, gender and cycling and the overall programme.

Early in the year, Green-Schools Travel partnered with Cyclist.ie to coordinate the new EU

## Key Achievements in 2019:

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.

Erasmus+ Project: Sustainable Mobility, Sustainable Community in Ireland. The three-year project launched with a cultural exchange in March to Corella, N. Spain. St. Tiernan's Community School students travelled to Spain with Green-Schools Travel Officers and volunteers, where they developed partnerships with fellow participants including ECF members Bicielistas de Corella in Spain, ECF members Frie Fugle Denmark and Sūduvos Vietos Veiklos Grupė in Lithuania. Two more exchanges between the groups took place with Green-Schools Travel welcoming 50+ visitors to Dublin in June, followed by the 3rd exchange in Copenhagen in October.

A new campaign was developed to focus on increasing the number of teenage girls who cycle to school. The campaign entitled #andshecycles was launched in September 2019 following focus group research with teenage girls from participating schools. The campaign gained widespread media attention and was featured on RTE News, The Irish Times and the Sunday times as well as on social media.

Green-Schools Travel Officers also carried out over 2,200 school visits which included educational workshops, experiential training, travel action days and audits. Travel Officers also undertook 214 walkability audits and 50 cycleability audits. Green-Schools also worked in partnership with the National Transport Authority, National Disability Authority and Age Friendly Ireland to develop a national Walkability Audit template.

- 663 SCHOOLS WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAVEL THEME IN 2019
- 31 TEACHER TRAINING SEMINARS WERE DELIVERED IN AUTUMN 2019
- 2,209 SCHOOL VISITS WERE MADE BY GREEN-SCHOOLS TRAVEL OFFICERS
- 810 SCOOTER PARKING SPACES WERE INSTALLED IN 38 SCHOOLS
- 300 BICYCLE SPACES WERE INSTALLED IN 24 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
- 144 SCHOOLS RECEIVED SUBSIDISED CYCLE RIGHT TRAINING WORTH €48,300
- 2,000+ STUDENTS TOOK PART IN SCOOT TO SCHOOL WEEK
- 22,780 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK
- 4,500+ STUDENTS TOOK PART IN BIKE WEEK
- ST. PETER'S NS, LOUTH WERE 'IRELAND'S TRAVEL SCHOOL OF THE YEAR'

# 2019 Participation

2019 saw participation levels in walking, cycling, scooting and other sustainable modes continue to grow. Schools worked hard at promoting sustainable travel to school throughout the year.



- 1919 WOW (WALK ON WEDNESDAY) EVENTS IN 2019
- 408 COW (CYCLE ON WEDNESDAY) EVENTS IN 2019
- 326 SCOOT ON WEDNESDAY EVENTS WERE HELD IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE WITH TRAVEL OFFICERS
- FACILITATING SCOOTER TRAINING WORKSHOPS DURING SCOOT TO SCHOOL WEEK
- 611 PARK'N'STRIDE EVENTS WERE HELD, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING VEHICLE CONGESTION AT THE SCHOOL GATE
- 214 'WALKABILITY' AUDITS CARRIED OUT
- 64 CYCLEABILITY AUDITS WERE CARRIED OUT
- 318 WALKING BUS EVENTS WERE RECORDED AS TAKING PLACE IN 2019
- 122 CYCLE TRAINING WORKSHOPS WERE CARRIED OUT BY TRAVEL OFFICERS
- 14 GET IN GEAR COURSES WERE COMPLETED

## 2019 in Numbers

Travel schools in 2019 held 1919 WOW events and 22,780 students took part in National Walk to School Week



In the same year schools held 408 COW events and 4,500+ students took part in National Bike Week



326 Scoot on Wednesday events were held in primary schools nationwide



611 Park'n'Stride events were held with schools achieving a reduction of vehicle congestion at the school gate



214 walkability audits and 64 cycleability audits were carried out with an increase from the previous year of 66% and 94%



Walking buses jumped 190%, with 318 events taking place in 2019

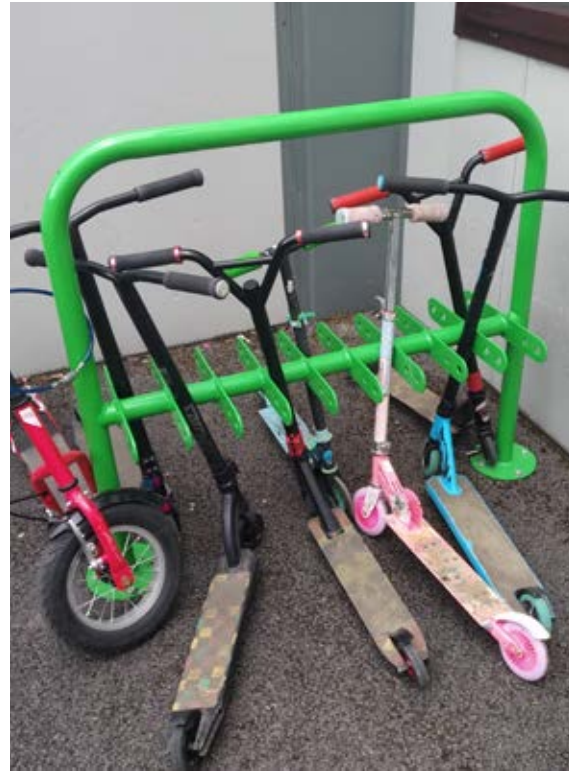


122 Cycle Training workshops took place, along with 14 Get in Gear courses completed



# Supporting Schools

Photographic highlights from Green-Schools  
Travel supporting schools in scooting, walking and  
cycling initiatives for the 2019 academic year



## Scooting Support

810 scooter parking spaces installed



## Travel Schools Awarded

the Green Flag for Travel at awards ceremonies across Ireland



## 22,780+ Students

walked on National WOW



## 1,665+ Students

Scooted on National SOW



## The Big Travel Challenge

58 schools took part

# in 2019

## Cycling Support

144 schools received subsidised Cycle  
Right training worth €48,300, and 330  
bicycle spaces were installed



## 4,529+ Students

Cycled on National COW

# Supporting Schools

Photographic highlights from Green-Schools Travel supporting schools in scooting, walking and cycling initiatives for the 2019 academic year



**Bike Maintenance Workshops**  
Delivering skills in bike maintenance



**Arriving to School by Bus**  
Students led 'Bus in the City' Project



**Park'n'Stride**  
611 events nationwide

## in 2019



**Walking Buses**  
318 events nationwide



**Speedometer**  
deployed to regional teams



**Cycleability Audits**  
64 carried out

# Call to Action Events



**The Big Travel Challenge**  
February



**National Scoot to School Week**  
March 11-15th



**National Walk to School Week**  
May 13-17th



**National Cycle to School Week**  
June 22-30th

Green-Schools Travel has four key call to action events which are celebrated annually with participating Travel, Global Citizenship Travel and awarded Travel schools, as well as with the wider community. The Big Travel Challenge, which is held in the month of February, celebrated its 5th birthday and saw large numbers of schools participating in the 10 day challenge.

March saw schools participate in National Scoot to School Week which promotes scooting to school and scooter training. The initiative runs annually in March and specifically focuses on engaging with primary schools. Schools are also offered the chance to win scooter parking during the week. National Walk to School Week is one of the most successful events on the Green-Schools Travel calendar engaging with primary and secondary schools in both rural and urban areas. The long-running initiative

has been celebrated since the launch of the Travel theme with the first event in 2009. Green-Schools Travel annually invites schools to take part in National Bike Week. The initiative by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport encourages all members in the community to discover the joys of the bike and raise awareness of cycling as a sustainable mode of travel, and one which schools nationwide have participated in through the Green-Schools Programme since 2010. Ireland has celebrated Climate Action Week as a nationwide call to action since 2017, with participating Green-Schools supporting the initiative each year in October with whole-school climate action. The collective efforts made by students to take positive climate action within their schools and communities has a momentous impact to effectively reduce carbon emissions and help Ireland meet global emission reduction targets.



# The Big Travel Challenge

In February schools nationwide undertook the Big Travel Challenge, which asked them to concentrate on one sustainable transport mode for 10 days to see if they could achieve real, lasting change in the travel behaviour of their staff and students. St. Peter's National School from Dromiskin in Louth was named 'Ireland's Travel School of the Year' 2019. The school concentrated on promoting walking to their 240 students, before the challenge they had 100 students

walking to school and by day 10 they had an impressive 207 students opting to travel to school on foot. To spread the message of sustainable, active travel the Green-Schools committee visited each class in the school in the run up to the challenge, and used their Twitter account and good relationship with community groups like Tidy Towns to spread the word that they were focused on walking to school. The Big Travel Challenge Awards took place in Dublin Zoo and 11 schools

were awarded prizes for their work in promoting active and sustainable modes during the 10 day challenge.



**Ireland's 2019 Travel School of the year:**  
St. Peter's NS, Dromiskin, Louth



**Scotting:**  
St. Clare's School, Harold's Cross, Dublin



**Park 'n' Stride:**  
Gaelscoil Osraí, Loch Buí, Kilkenny  
St. Oliver's NS, Ballycasheen, Kerry  
Belcarra NS, Castlebar, Mayo



**Carpooling:**  
Ardscoil Phadraig, Granard, Longford  
Scoil Náisiúnta an Choimín, an Clochán, Donegal



**Walking:**  
St. Dominic's NS, Kenagh, Co. Longford  
Corofin NS, Corofin, Clare



**Cycling:**  
St. Joseph's BNS, Clondalkin, Dublin  
St. Brigid's NS, Singland, Limerick





# Scoot to School Week



National Scoot to School Week ran from March 11-15th, with National SOW Day on Wednesday March 13th. The week-long initiative, which celebrates its 5th successful year, focuses on promoting all aspects of scooting to school in primary schools. In 2019 National SOW Day saw over 2,000 students scooting on Wednesday 13th March. The week was promoted to schools who are working towards their Green Flag or who had already been awarded the flag. Travel Officers hosted exciting scooting events and scooting workshops during the week.

**Scoot to School Week**  
**March 11-15th**  
The 2nd call to action on the Travel theme calendar that focuses on getting primary students celebrating sustainability on the school run by scooting to school.



# Walk to School Week

National Walk to School Week took place from May 13-17th. National WOW (Walk on Wednesday), held on Wednesday 15th, was the midpoint of Green-Schools National Walk to School Week, and was celebrated in hundreds of schools across the country. Green-Schools Travel Officers worked with schools early in the 2018/2019 academic year to help and encourage the switch to greener travel in advance of National Walk to School Week.

National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) is the main event during Walk to School Week and is a culmination for many schools of months spent auditing routes to school and encouraging students and their parents to consider walking, active travel or other options like Park'n'Stride. In 2019 over 22,780+ students walked on National WOW.

Travel collaborated with the IFI early in the year in advance of Walk to School Week to celebrate the launch of the new Global Citizenship Travel theme. Schools in Dublin, Cork and Galway were invited to screenings of the beautifully observed documentary, 'On the Way to School', which illustrates the lives of four young people in very different parts of the world making their daily journey to school. The screening series launched with an event in the IFI where three Dublin City Travel schools participated in a global travel activity, which quizzed their knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable travel. After the screening, the audience participated in a Q&A to discuss the stark differences observed of the journeys made by the subjects in the film compared to typical journeys made by school children in Ireland.

**Walk to School Week**  
**May 13-17th**  
**Celebrated in 132 schools across the country.**



## IFI Screenings: Dublin, Cork, Galway

Green-Schools collaborate with IFI to launch Walk to School Week 2019



# National Bike Week

National Bike Week is an initiative set up by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and one which Green-Schools encourages all participating and awarded schools to take part in as part of their work and maintenance on the Travel themes. Bike Week ran from June 22-30th, with National COW (Cycle on Wednesday) on June 26th. The week-long initiative overlapped with the international Velo City Conference in Dublin, with many exciting cycling events happening nationwide in schools and communities. In 2019 National COW saw a total of 4529 students cycling on Wednesday nationwide. Schools who were working towards their Green Flag for Travel celebrated the week with mass cycle events, skills and bike maintenance workshops facilitated by Green-Schools Travel Officers.

Many events took place around the country and we have picked one event to highlight from each of our regional teams.

## Western Event

Green-Schools Travel, Galway City Council and An Garda Síochána teamed up again for the Annual Galway City Schools Bike Week cycle ride. 5 Schools and 250 pupils and teachers cycled the 5km route from Eyre Square which was facilitated by rolling road closures from An Garda Síochána. Mayor Mike Curbard showed some strong leadership and was the first Mayor to cycle with the pupils since its inception 4 years ago. Afterwards the pupils were treated to ice cream from Galway City Council.

## Southern Event

Travel Officers in Limerick arranged a cycle in the University of Limerick with 4th class students, cycling along the Greenway into the city at O'Brien's Park. Their local Green-party councillor, Seán Hartigan joined them and gave the students a historical background to how the canal route had always been used as a transport link, well before it was upgraded to a top-class greenway route.



## Dublin Event

Over 50 visiting Erasmus partners joined Green-Schools in the Velo City Bike Parade during National Bike Week. Travel schools within the Dublin area were also encouraged to join the cycle parade. On arriving at St. Anne's Park, Springdale N.S students presented their Travel project 'Spring City' exhibition to the bike parade participants

## Cork Event

Scoil Ursula's Travel committee made a great effort in organising Bike Week events. Firstly, they banned all staff cars from the school over the two days and the students enjoyed cycling to school in a car free zone. They organised a series of activities some which included cycling history tours and a 'Bike Trivia Quiz'.

## National Bike Week June 22-30th

National Bike Week is a DTTaS initiative, which Green-Schools encourages Travel and awarded Travel flag schools to take part in as part of their work and maintenance on the Travel theme.



# Campaigns and Projects

Green-Schools Travel participated in a new project and developed two new campaigns, which were particularly successful in engaging secondary school students.



## Love 30

Events to promote lower speeds



## Velo City

Green-Schools Travel Speakers, bike parade and SpringCity display



## Erasmus+

Sustainable Mobility, Sustainable Community project among four EU countries



## Clean Air Week

Premiered Green-Schools Travel's latest campaign



## #andshecycles

Campaign Launch

# in 2019



## #andshecycles

Social media engagement



## SpringCity

The Creative Thinking project with Artist Rhona Byrne

# Erasmus+

In January of 2019 Green-Schools Travel launched the new EU Erasmus+ project, 'Sustainable Mobility, Sustainable Community', together with partners from three other European countries. In Ireland Green-Schools partnered with ECF (European Cyclists' Federation) member Cyclist.ie who are the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network in Ireland. Green-Schools invited St. Tiernan's Community School, Balally, Co. Dublin to participate in the project. St. Tiernan's was chosen to participate as they are a secondary school working on the Travel theme. The three-year project will see students from four European countries collaborate to promote cycling, social inclusion and youth empowerment. ECF member Biciclistas de Corella is partnered with IES Alhama High School in Spain, ECF member Frie Fugle Denmark is partnered with Randersgades Skole in Copenha-

gen and Sūduvos Vietos Veiklos Grupė in Lithuania works with their own youth volunteers in their community.

The joint project began with a cultural exchange in Corella, N. Spain in March. St. Tiernan's students travelled to Spain with Jane Hackett the Green-Schools Travel Manager and a number of volunteers. The trip was an exciting experience for the students who experienced cycling in another country and sharing cycling experiences with partner countries.

The Green-Schools Travel team hosted the Erasmus group to Dublin in June. In total over 50 partners visited Dublin in June which timed with the Velo City Conference and National Bike Week. Along with extensive workshops, tours and activities centred around sustainable mobility and

communities, the group took part in the opening plenary session of the Velo-City Conference and cycled with over 3,000 delegates and locals in the Bike parade along the Sutton2Sandycove Greenway.

In October two Green-Schools Travel Officers, along with six St. Tiernan's students, completed the 3rd LTT trip (learning, teaching and training) during an exchange in Copenhagen, where they were immersed in Danish cycling culture. St. Tiernan's students showcased the new Green-Schools #andshecycles campaign to the group, which led to much discussion on the issue that, in Ireland, fewer than one in 250 girls cycle to school each day. Lithuania will host an exchange in August 2020, followed by a return trip to Spain in October and Ireland in 2021 to celebrate the completion of the EU Erasmus+ Project.



**Cycling Without Age**  
Partnering with CWA groups in Copenhagen



**Cycling Without Age**  
Partnering with CWA groups in Corella



**Meeting Irish Parliament Ministers in Dublin**

During a week of activities on cycling development, climate action and sustainable communities



**A Taste of Danish Cycling Culture**

During a week of activities on cycling development, the SDGs and sustainable communities

# Velo City

Green-Schools contributed to the international Velo City conference in Dublin which took place in the Convention Centre from the 25th -28th June. Green-Schools Travel Manager Jane Hackett presented 'Cycleability Audits; a fun, easy and child centered approach to fixing our cycling infrastructure' and Travel Officer Caitriona Buggle presented the #andshecycles campaign which focused on the gender imbalance in teens and young adults choosing to cycle to school.

Green-Schools welcomed the Erasmus+ delegation to Dublin in the same week

and students from St. Tiernan's Community College, Balally, along with students and delegates from Spain, Lithuania and Denmark took part in the opening plenary session of the Velo-City Conference.

Green-Schools Travel held student focused spin off sessions in Trinity College and TU Dublin with many international Velo City speakers presenting their work to the group. Finola O'Driscoll from the National Transport Authority also presented to the group in Trinity College.

The Erasmus group, along with many

schools in Dublin, joined the Velo-City Cycle Parade to St. Anne's Park from the Convention Centre. On arriving at St. Anne's Park, the group viewed the Spring City model in the Red Stables' Studio to see an example of Green-Schools facilitating and encouraging child participation in planning and cycling development.

Throughout the week Dublin and regional Travel Officers attended talks and panel events at the Velo City Conference, which enabled them to implement new strategies and approaches to their sustainable travel teaching practice.



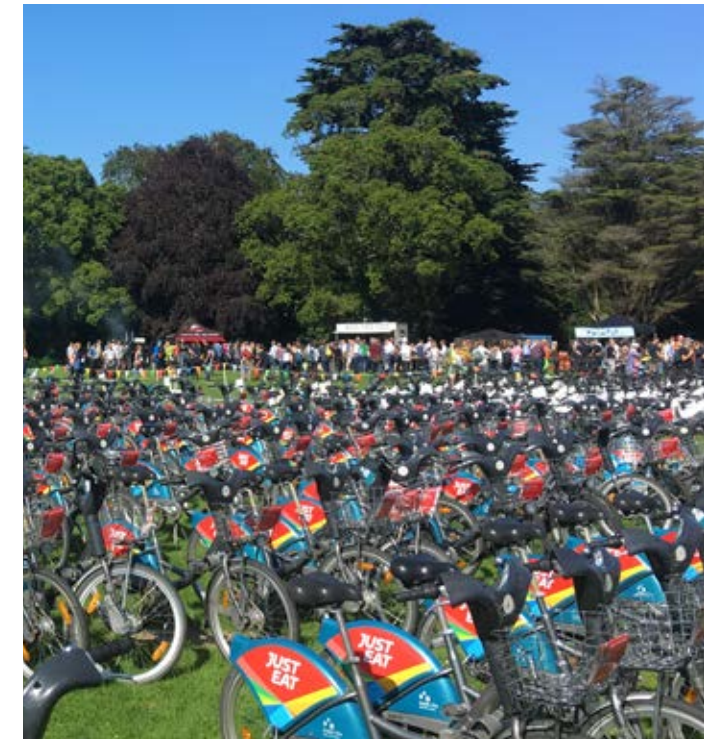
## Bike Parade

50+ Erasmus group cycled to St. Anne's Park



## Plenary Session

Erasmus group attended the opening session



## Bike Week

Schools encouraged to join the bike parade



## Meeting International Delegates

The Erasmus group meet and learned from several delegates who gave their time to Green-Schools

# Creative Thinking

In advance of the Velo City Conference 2019 in Dublin, fifth class students at Springdale NS, Raheny, Dublin had been working behind the scenes with artist Rhona Byrne and Green-Schools Travel Officer Rebecca Flanagan. Over three months the team developed a model of 'Spring City', which is a sustainable and liveable public space, envisioned by the students, in which they can move freely.

Artist Rhona Byrne, funded through the Arts Council, worked with the Green-Schools programme to engage students from Springdale N.S., to think and envisage about how they move and play within their city environment during a series of 'Creative Thinking' workshops. The workshop series was part of The Citizen Cycle project, curated by Michelle Browne, and includes three artists working with different communities to develop a series of public performances and visual artworks which were presented during the Velo-City Bike Parade on June 26th.

Initially Travel Officer Rebecca, worked together with Rhona to develop a greater awareness of the Springdale student's sense of place, or lack thereof, in the city. The students expressed that this was their

first experience with public participation and being consulted for their opinions on mobility in their city.

During the project the students participated in the City Change Masterclass with Michelle Browne. During the one-day art and culture workshop, activities were designed to foster greater levels of engagement with the city and create an atmosphere of trust between children and adults when it comes to planning and decision making. The objective for the adults was to ensure that the children understood that it's OK to have fun and to think outside the box when creating art and designing spaces.

The adults were to make a conscious effort to not replicate the typical adult-centric way of making decisions for the city and its constituents. The objective for the participating children was to empower them by making a space for their concerns to be heard and show them they also have a say in the decisions of their surrounding environment. Throughout the project the students had the opportunity to dream up a sustainable city without limits and were given the space and resources to develop a model which would provide space for active travel and equal use of the city. 'Spring City' was displayed at St. Anne's Park, in the Red Stables' Studios during the Velo-city Conference Bike Parade event.



**A Peak inside**  
The interactive city model



**Masterclass**  
Students envision potential for their space



**Rhona Byrne with Springdale Students**  
encouraging thinking about how they move and play within their city environment



**SpringCity**  
Planning and Development

# #andshecycles

Green-Schools Travel worked with teenage girls in secondary schools to develop the #andshecycles campaign in 2019.

Following focus group research, Green-Schools Travel found that there were many social barriers preventing teenage girls from choosing to cycle to school. The aim of the campaign is to investigate the barriers that teenage girls face, to support them to become regular cyclists and to normalise cycling for all teens.

The #andshecycles campaign was officially launched on Thursday September 19, at an event in the Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin, which had over 100 people in attendance. The launch event included a welcome reception showcasing the

#andshecycles portraits by photographer Ste Murray of young female cyclists. The exhibition was followed by the premiere of the official #andshecycles campaign video which was widely shared on social media platforms and in turn stirring up some necessary conversations as to why young women feel cycling is not an option for them. The panel discussion, chaired by RTÉ 2FM DJ Tara Stewart featured International Irish Cyclist and UCD student Lara Gillespie; student Aislinn McDaid; Green-Schools Travel Officer Caitríona Buggle; and Health Services Research professor, Dr. Catherine Darker. The audience was primarily made up of female secondary school students, along with journalists and cycling enthusiasts.

#andshecycles hopes to change and challenge the issues and perceptions raised from the campaign through video, social media and continued liaison with students. Green-Schools hopes that by discussing and dissecting the reasons why young women are not cycling, we can highlight the positives, the ways to overcome and, through acknowledgement, help those students who might otherwise cycle to continue to do so or begin to do so in the future.

Following the launch focus group research, mass cycle events and workshops continued in schools nationwide which set the wheels in motion for the development of the #andshecycles Roadshow which would take the campaign to major towns and cities around Ireland in 2020.



## Campaign Launch Panel Event

Left; student Aislinn McDaid, International Irish Cyclist Lara Gillespie, RTÉ DJ Tara Stewart, Health Services Research professor, Dr. Catherine Darker and Green-Schools Travel Officer Caitríona Buggle



## Exhibition

Read to travel nationwide in 2020 with the #andshecycles Roadshow



## Instagram Competition

Six weeks of #andshecycles giveaways to involve young people in the conversation



## Mass Cycle Events

Ursuline College, Sligo win Division Youth Award with #andshecycles awareness-raising cycle



# Clean Air Week

Clean Air Week premiered on November 18th -22nd 2019. This week-long event is the newest campaign from the Green-Schools Travel them and is focused on raising awareness of, and taking action on, air pollution at the school gates.

Following a study carried out in Spring 2019 in partnership with schools and the international Globe programme students discovered that nitrogen dioxide NO2 levels were higher for schools situated in major towns and cities when compared to schools located in rural areas. This can be attributed to traffic at the school gates as well as idling engines from cars and buses.

During Clean Air Week Green-Schools

asked students to make a pledge to #BeatAirPollution in order to create a healthy environment around the school gate by increasing the number of students who walk and cycle to school.

Green-Schools ran a competition during the week, calling for schools to make a pledge to #BeatAirPollution by increasing active travel such as walking, cycling and scooting, using sustainable travel modes or starting an Air Pollution Campaign within the school or community.

Initiatives were widely shared on social media with a campaign media pack available for download from the website. Coordinators were also encouraged to

find information and activities in the latest Green-Schools Travel resources including the No Idling Toolkit and the Air Quality resource to help them launch a clean air-focused campaign during Clean Air Week.

Presentation Secondary School Tralee were the winners of the Clean Air Week competition after they stormed social media platforms and the school gates with their No Idling campaign. The Green-Schools committee hosted a stand during their schools open night to spread the message of no idling outside their school to parents and future students. Parents and students were encouraged to add a personal pledge to their pledge tree which was displayed within the school.



**Clean Air Week Launch**  
St. Finbarr's BNS launch the first Clean Air Week in October 2019



**No Idling Campaign**  
Presentation Secondary School Tralee winners



**No Idling Survey**  
Ballyraine NS, Letterkenny



**Tuam Poster Art Workshop**  
Artwork campaigning for climate action and lower emissions

# Love 30

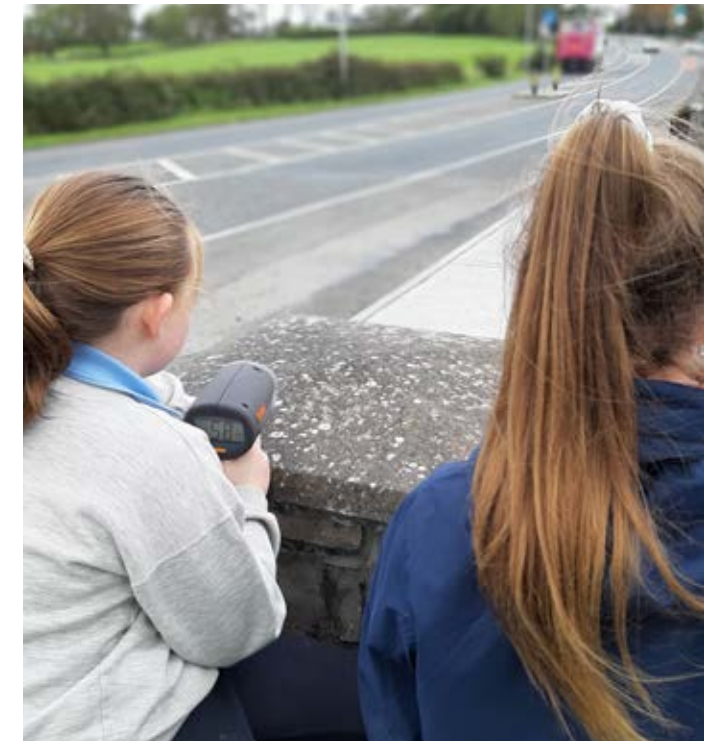
The Love 30 Campaign is a national alliance of individuals and organisations who support lower speed limits in urban areas. Green-Schools support the Love 30 campaign to promote and support lower speed limits outside schools. Throughout the year a number of Travel Officers from a cross section of the country coordinate Love 30 workshops and Slow Down day events at schools. Four speedometers were deployed to each regional team to help students record speeds during their walkability audits and traffic surveys.

Children find it difficult to judge the speed of oncoming traffic and are slower than adults at judging when to safely step out on the road. With the aim to transform the road outside the school gate from

car-dominated spaces to vibrant living communities space, schools together with their Travel Officer can use the Love 30 initiative to raise awareness and campaign for 30km/h and slow zones outside the school gates.



**Slow Down Day**  
Roscommon



**Measuring Speed**  
at Rathcormac NS



**Supporting Love 30 Campaign**  
at Ballyraine NS, Letterkenny



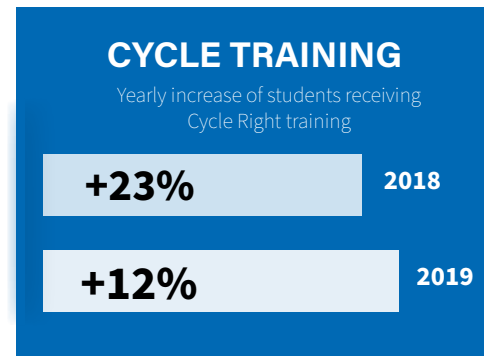
**Raising Speed Awareness**  
for slow zones outside the school gates

In addition to teacher training, Travel Officers provide cycle and scooter skills training to current Travel schools.

# Skills and Training

Green-Schools Travel works closely with CYCLE RIGHT, the national standard of cycle training. The CYCLE RIGHT programme for primary school pupils is an outstanding training course that provides children with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to cycle to school or for leisure. The training course provides an equal opportunity to all children participating by providing each child a helmet and bicycle for the 8-hour (4-8 sessions) training course, regardless of skill level. Two trainers lead children through yard-based skills and simulations to give children the confidence to cycle safely and eventually take their place on the road.

Green-Schools Travel supported CYCLE RIGHT training to primary school pupils by providing schools a grant of €10 per student up to 60 students. Eligible schools were either currently working on or had received their Travel Flag. For many schools this grant provides essential support to allow all students in a class to take part in cycle training. In 2019, 4,830 pupils from 144 schools across the country took part in Green-Schools subsidised CYCLE RIGHT training.

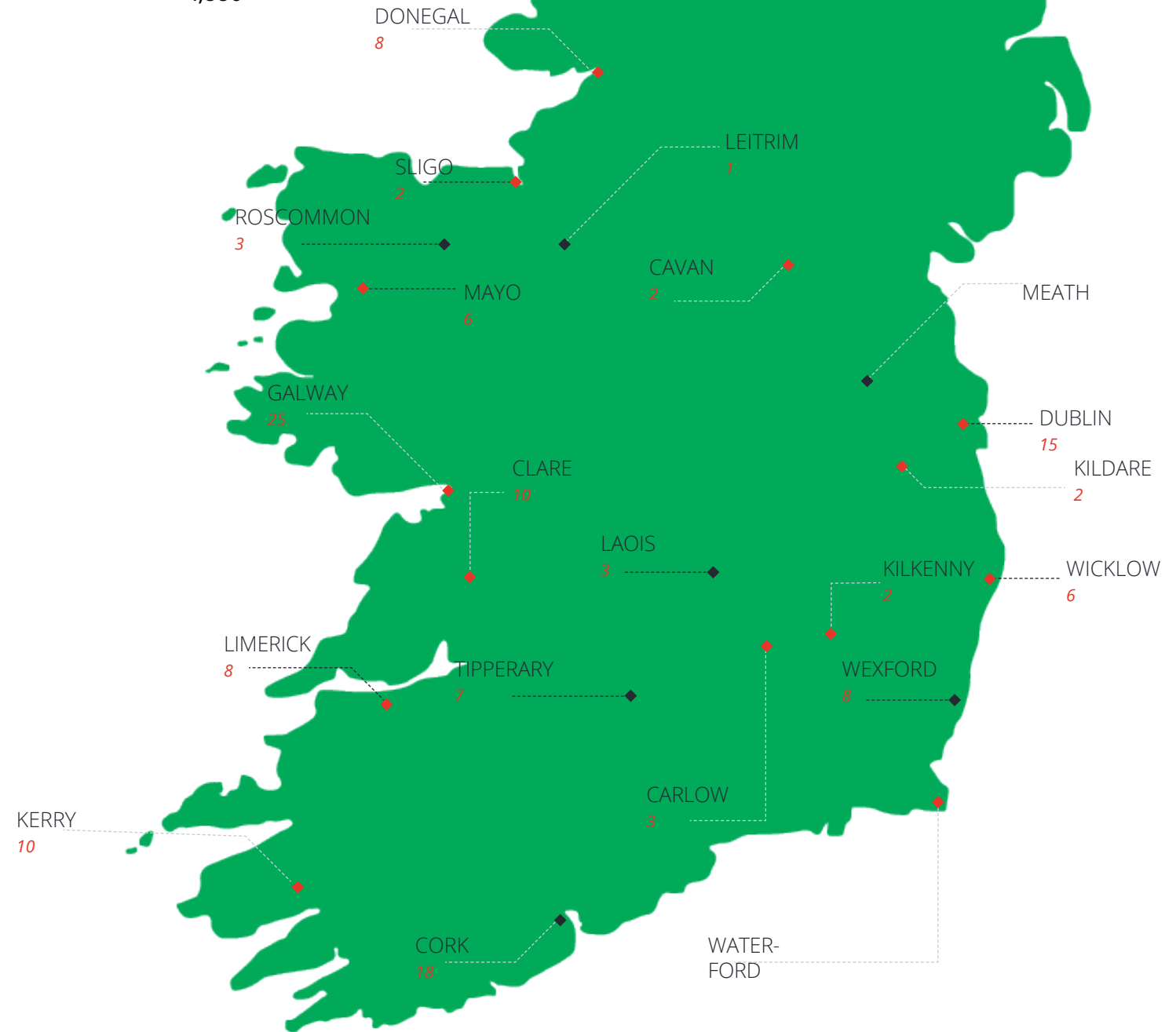


## CYCLE RIGHT

Funding Allocated:

€48,300

Schools: 144      STUDENTS: 4,830



# TRAVEL Skills and Training



## Bike Maintenance Workshops

To compliment the cycle skills offered by CYCLE RIGHT and Travel Officers, basic bike maintenance workshops were also offered to Green-Schools Travel schools. The bike maintenance workshops gave children the opportunity to learn about the different parts of the bike while checking that they are all in good working order. The 'M-Check' included a full bike scan starting with the wheels, moving up to the handlebars, down to the pedals, up to the saddle, and back down to the chain creating an easy to remember 'M' shape. Children were asked to investigate each part of the bike while the Travel Officer explained what to look out for. Following the 'M-Check', children were provided the hands-on challenge of repairing a puncture. The class was split into small groups and given a punctured

tube, tub of water, repair kit, and pump. The children closely followed the Travel Officer's lead and together all the children worked on repairing their tubes. Tangible skills from both CYCLE RIGHT and Travel Officers are only a few of the many benefits of working on Green-Schools Travel.

## Scooter Training

In anticipation of Scoot to School week in March, Travel Officers provide scooter training to the primary school students. Students bring scooters and helmets to school, some sharing with friends, and learn scooting skills and safety through fun activities. Some of the skills that children learned and practiced were steering, using the brake, emergency stopping, gliding, and ducking.



## Cycle Skills



In anticipation of Bike Week in June, schools book their Travel Officer in for basic cycle skills training for their older pupils. Similar to scooter training, children bring in bikes and helmets, some sharing with friends, to learn skills such as helmet fitting, proper mounting and dismounting of the bike, using the brakes, emergency stop, signalling, and steering.

Feedback from children, teachers, and parents was overwhelmingly positive with more children feeling confident to scoot and cycle to school.

# Teacher Training

Following increased interest from Green-Schools coordinators to learn more on the UN Global Goals, Green-Schools updated the 2019 summer Teacher Training Course to include the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The updated programme was well received by teachers and coordinators with new material to help participants to understand the Global Goals and the link between them and the Green-Schools programme. Some teachers are new to Green-Schools, taking the course to gain an insight into the programme. Others will be long-standing Green-Schools Coordinators looking for refreshing new ideas and approaches to the programme.

The course covers all themes of the programme and provides useful information, resources and support through daily lectures, field trips and active learning. Green-Schools Travel Officers gave one day of training in courses in Meath and Dublin, covering all elements of the Travel theme as well as practical tips on performing helmet checks, the M check of bike and road safety. Teachers participated in cycling game demos and together the group developed classroom Action plans for Travel. Teachers complete the training with more confidence and expertise to deliver the Green-Schools Programme within their own schools.

In timing with the beginning of the 2019/2020 academic year 31 Green-Schools Seminars were delivered to teachers in partnership with Local Authorities. Travel Officers delivered one-hour seminars focused on introducing teachers to the Travel and Global Citizenship Travel themes. The seminars are a great introduction to the new themes and give teachers and Coordinators an opportunity to meet their Green-Schools Travel Officers, Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officers and fellow coordinators within their locality.



**Green-Schools Summer Course 2019**  
Green-Schools Travel Officers gave one day of training



**Green-Schools Seminars 2019/2020**  
31 seminars were delivered across all Local Authorities



**New Online Course**  
remote online learning experience with five 4-hours modules

# Infrastructure Supports



## Skills and Training



## Infrastructure Supports

One of the many invaluable supports made available to schools through Green-Schools Travel is the opportunity to apply for infrastructure at their school. Many Green-Schools Committees want to promote cycling and scooting to school, however feedback from parents and school management may highlight the lack of safe, quality parking. If schools express an interest in promoting cycling and/or scooting their Travel Officer may suggest applying to Green-Schools for fully funded cycle parking stands, cycle shelters and scooter parking. Only schools currently working toward the Travel or Global Citizenship Travel flag are eligible to apply for this funding.

With help from their Travel Officer, schools put together a detailed application form to apply for parking. Schools are asked what barriers they face for cycling or scooting, how many students currently cycle or scoot, how many

students could cycle or scoot, and for their actions on how they would promote cycling and scooting to school. Following on from this, schools that applied for cycle parking were asked questions on how many spaces they would prefer to have, if they would prefer a shelter, and if any groundworks were necessary. All applications were received in the winter term and were assessed based on need and Travel Officer feedback on cyclability of the school area. In 2019, 330 cycle spaces and 19 shelters were allocated to 24 schools and 920 scooter spaces were allocated to 39 schools.

Schools around the country were delighted with their new infrastructure, some even celebrated their parking on social media and in their local newspapers. Many schools see an increase in children and students both cycling and scooting to school once new parking infrastructure is provided.



**Before**  
Unsecure scooter parking

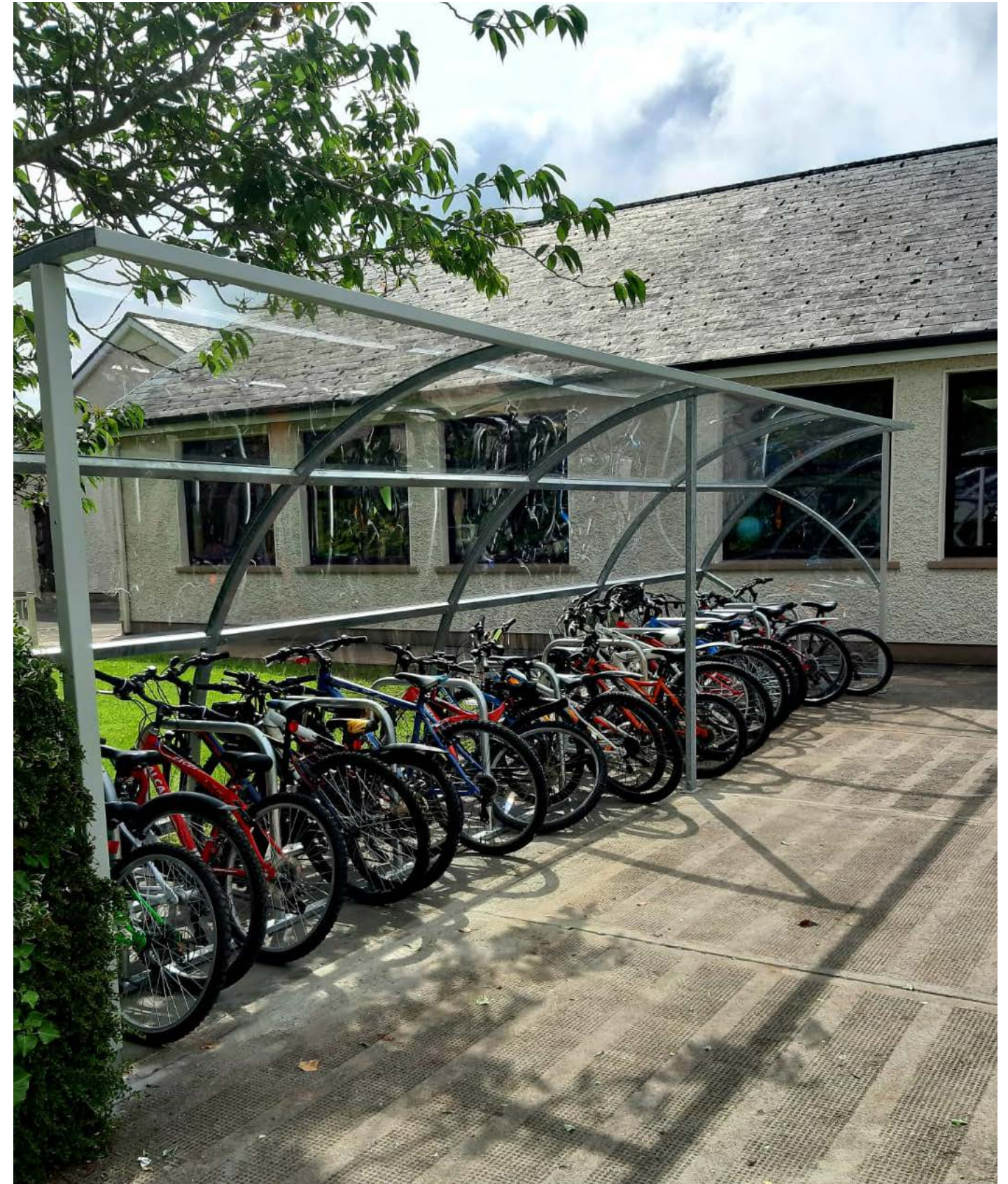


**After Installation**  
scooting numbers increased



**Celebration**  
during scooting training

330 bicycle spaces installed in 24 participating schools



# Walkability Audits



**Walkability Audits**  
214 number carried out



**Cycleability Audits**  
64 number carried out

Walkability Audits carried out in 2019 continued to highlight the many challenges that students across the country face daily when actively travelling to and from schools. The following issues continued to be those most experienced by students in 2019: speeding, poor driver behaviour, car dominated school gates, engine-idling, poor / narrow / lack of footpaths, poor / lack of pedestrian crossings, illegal parking, street litter, and poor air quality.

In 2019 Green-Schools Travel began developing a new interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) tool to enable digital recording and mapping of data generated by Walkability and Cyclability Audits. The GIS tool, which is being trialled by Travel Officers using the ESRI platform, will enhance the ability of Green-Schools to communicate the work of Travel Officers' as they assess the walkability and cyclability of school catchment areas across the country. This will allow the outputs of audits to be readily shared with the public and with the Local Authorities responsible for providing active travel infrastructure.

In addition, it is envisaged that the GIS tool will create efficiencies for Travel Officers by automatically generating audit reports that are pre-populated with the geo-located and categorised data during the audit itself. Despite significant ongoing challenges to active travel, the work of Travel Officers in carrying out Walkability Audits with schools has led to numerous positive outcomes in 2019.

The value of carrying out audits as part of the educational programme not only increases numbers of students travelling to and from school by scooter, bike or on foot, it also enables students to participate in societal decision-making. On top of this, there has been numerous successes with audit reports prompting Local Authorities to implement new or improved active travel infrastructure across the country in 2019, as illustrated in the below examples.



**Walkability Audit**  
Clarinbridge National School, Galway



**Pavement Structure**  
Noting uneven surfaces



**Footpaths**  
Having fun in autumn



**Participation**  
Experience in public participation



**Walkability Audit**  
Scoil Mhuire Lakelands, Sandymount, Dublin

# Meelin National School, Cork



## Re-Designing the School Entrance

**Meelin National School, Cork**  
Meelin National School, Co. Cork started the Travel theme in 2018 and have since worked to develop a new and innovative ways to integrate the travel theme with curricular objectives and actively engage students in positive change. In 2019 Meelin NS completed a walkability audit and identified the school car park as an area of concern. Located in rural North Cork the students had limited scope to increase walking and cycling numbers but still wanted to implement positive actions through the travel theme. The findings from their walkability audit are included in the table.

- FINDINGS INCLUDED:
- PARKING IS HAZARDOUS (NO GUIDED ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL)
- NO DISABLED PARKING
- NO CROSSING POINT TO CHURCH/COMMUNITY HALL
- UNEVEN SURFACE PATH WHICH NARROWS IN PLACES
- THE ABSENCE OF LINES/FOOTPATH TO GUIDE PEDESTRIANS
- A DEDICATED PATH DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL GATE IS NEEDED
- CURRENTLY NO PROVISION FOR BUS PARKING

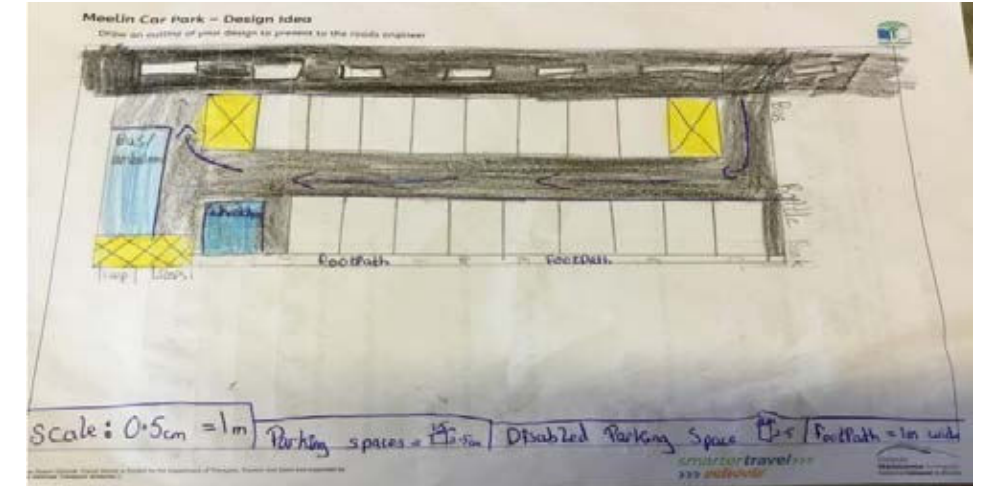
# AUDIT

## Actions Taken

The school worked with the Travel Officer for County Cork and Tipperary, Ellen O’Sullivan to create a unique workshop which empowered students to act as engineers and design their own carpark. As part of this workshop, students measured the area of the carpark including carparking spaces and created scaled drawings of their proposed designs. Students were invited to consider how their community uses the car park and include this in their designs. Many of these designs were made and coupled with a brief outline of why they thought their design would work.

**Design 5 picture right:**  
**Molly, Rebecca and Cathal**

*‘I think a one-way system in the car park will work. If a car comes in one side another car might come in the other side and they would have to try weave their way around. Yellow boxes are very important. The cars need space to come in and out. We also need a footpath. Children can’t be walking behind or in front of cars. A disabled space and a bus/ambulance space is also required.’*



## Results

In March 2020, Cork County Council took the students proposals on board and installed disabled parking, a bus bay, directional flow markings and parking lines in the school car park. The students were thrilled to have such input into making such a positive change that will benefit not only them but the wider community.





# CASE STUDIES



## WOW re-Launch

### **Presentation Secondary School, Waterford**

Presentation Secondary School is an all-girls school in Waterford City. It is located on a very busy commuter road with 402 students and 34 staff.

Joining the Presentation students for their WOW launch event was Travel Officer Edwina Coman, who helped the Green-Schools Coordinator to set up and organise their event. The event was well promoted by the

Green-Schools Committee, who contacted local businesses for raffle prizes to help promote the WOW launch. Their efforts were rewarded and there was a great turnout on the morning despite the heavy rain. Each student who arrived to school by foot was rewarded with a bag of jellies and a raffle ticket. The raffle draw took place in the communal lunch area to celebrate the success of the launch.

## WOW Day

### **Davidstown National School, Wexford**

Davidstown National School is co-educational school in county Wexford with 52 students and seven staff members. The school is located approximately seven kilometres from Enniscorthy Town in a particularly rural setting. Joining the Davidstown NS students for their WOW launch event was Travel Officer Edwina Coman, who helped the Green-Schools Coordinator and Committee to set up and organise their event. There was a great turnout for such a small, rural school, with families walking and using the Park'n'Stride location at the local church car park. The weather on the day was beautiful after a spell of very heavy rain in the previous few days leading up to the launch. The parent's association and teachers had gotten together and provided a breakfast of porridge, mini quiches, pancakes and fruit ready when the children arrived at school.



## Cycle Events



### **Ursuline College Sligo**

To raise awareness of the #andshcycles campaign and as part of their ongoing work towards achieving the Green Flag for Travel, more than 40 students from Ursuline College, Sligo took part in a mass cycle to Strandhill beach. Prior to taking part in the cycle the students discussed the barriers to teenage girls cycling and the campaign video. Green-Schools Travel Officers, Lisa McDaniel and Áine O' Loughlen, worked closely with the Green-Schools coordinator, PE teachers and the local Garda Superintendent and traffic core to organise a 16km cycle through the town, Finnisklin Industrial Estate and along the cycle lane leading to Strandhill village and back. The group made a professional video of the outing to spread via social media to the wider community. Their efforts were recognised at the Sligo/Leitrim Garda Division Youth Awards at the beginning of 2020, with Ursuline College Sligo winning the 'Community Safety Award', an achievement which awards youth groups for outstanding contribution in developing a safety initiative to make their community a safer place to live.

# CASE STUDIES



## Rural School

**Fossa National School, Killarney, Kerry**  
Fossa National School is a mixed rural primary school in the village of Fossa Co. Kerry, located 5km from Killarney on the N72. This is a very busy road, on the main Ring of Kerry route. There is no footpath in place outside the school, only on the opposite side of the road. There is parking available for staff outside the school grounds but limited parking outside the school available for parents on this very busy road. Morning times and at the end of the school day are very busy times with traffic everywhere. The tourist session is the most worrying for the school. The school welcomed the Travel theme to help with congestion outside the school gates. Their main campaign was to get a crossing put in place outside their school so that students and parents could cross the road to the footpath safely and use the car park beside the Church and are awaiting to hear back from Kerry County



**Sharavogue School, Glenageary, Dublin**  
Sharavogue School, Glenageary, Dublin Sharavogue School is Montessori style, co-educational, school located in a quiet estate off the busy Glenageary Road Upper, Dublin.

The school shares its facilities with the Sharavogue creche and offers both academic day hours and full day care. Many students and younger siblings for the creche lived far from the school were brought to Sharavogue in the early morning and collected in the evening.

The Coordinator, Travel Officer, and the eager and passionate Green-Schools

committee all worked closely to devise a bespoke action plan that would fit all the intricacies of Sharavogue. The Coordinator and Committee were absolutely delighted and pleasantly surprised to report their efforts throughout the Travel theme had made a big difference as shown by their follow up survey data. Some notable changes were families carpooling, students walking together to school, and one family cycling to school with the parent leaving their bike at school and continuing their journey to work on the DART.

All the changes put in place for the Travel theme have added to happier, healthier, and safer Sharavogue and Glenageary

## Urban School

communities. Their Key actions included a pedometer challenge, the 'Eddy the Penguin Saves the World!' Christmas play, localised Climate Strikes, Scooter Skills and training from Green-Schools Travel Officer Allison Phillips. Sharavogue School recorded a positive increase in sustainable and active travel to school with an 8% increase in walking, a 7% increase in cycling, a 5% increase in scooting, a 13% increase in carpooling and a 33% decrease in the use of the private car.



Council. Initially the school conducted a baseline travel survey which showed that 6.7% of students walked to school, 12.2% park and strode, 0% cycled, 11.6% travelled to school by bus and 61% of students travelled to school by car, with 8.5% carpooling. After spending time raising awareness on sustainable travel, the school decided to promote carpooling, the bus and the Park'n'Stride initiative. This school were motivated to explore all angles of the Travel theme from the very beginning and completed the work with a great sense of community spirit and were keen to be involved in all decisions made and actions taken. The Green-Schools Coordinator and Committee were the driving force behind the programme, keeping daily records of how everyone travelled to school and the 'Golden Boot Award' proved a great success. The school achieved a 29.2% reduction in car use with an increase of walking by 2%, Park'n'Stride by 16%, cycling by 2%, bus use by 4% and carpooling by 5%. Excellent progress was made in reducing congestion outside the school, reducing CO2 emissions, increasing road and cycle safety skills, having fun on the journey to school, are far more alert on arrival and in enabling all involved to play their part as responsible citizens, caring for their environment.

# Meet the Team



**MICHAEL JOHN O'MAHONY** Director, An Taisce EEU  
**JANE HACKETT** Green-Schools Travel Manager  
**SUSAN DOORLEY** Team Leader Leinster  
**TIARNAN MCCUSKER** Team Leader West  
**ANGELA WALL** Team Leader Munster



**CIARA NORTON** Communications Officer  
**REBECCA FLANAGAN** Events / Communications Officer  
**TREVOR KEPPEL** Green-Schools Travel Infrastructural Officer  
**ALLISON PHILLIPS** Green-Schools Cycling Development Officer  
**ROBERT EGAN** Secondary Schools Travel Officer



**CATERINA Mc NAMARA** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**KAREN MOORE** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**SORCHA BROPHY** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**CHIARA HANRAHAN** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**CAMILLA TUNNEY** Green-Schools Travel Officer



**JESSICA SALAS** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**JENNIFER COONEY** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**CAROLINE MURPHY** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**CAITRIONA CUNNINGHAM** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**FIONA BARRY** Green-Schools Travel Officer



**LUKASZ KRZYWON** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**LISA MCDANIEL** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**ROISÍN NÍ GHAIRBHITH** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**ÁINE O'LOUGHLEN** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**ELLEN O'SULLIVAN** Green-Schools Travel Officer



**AENGUS KENNEDY** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**CATHERINE RUSSELL** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**EDWINA COMAN** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**DAVE BROOKS** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**ELLEN MURPHY** Green-Schools Travel Officer



**LISA O'GRADY** Green-Schools Travel Officer  
**HANS VAN DE VEN** Green-Schools Travel Officer



**Green-Schools**



**Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair**  
National Transport Authority

*smartertravel>>>*

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