

Guidelines for the Green-Schools Water Ambassador Programme



The Green-Schools Water Ambassador Programme 2023/2024, run in partnership with Uisce Éireann, aims to raise awareness about the importance of water and issues surrounding this resource amongst schools and local communities.

Students can apply from any year and can apply on their own, in pairs or in a groups up to 4. However, **each student should complete their own individual application**. More than one ambassador can apply from a school. Before applying, applicants should carefully consider if they have the time to commit to the programme and other obligations that may impact participation e.g. mock exams, work experience placement etc. Applications must be completed through the online Ambassador Programme application form, the **deadline for applications is Wednesday, 4th October**.

During the training days in **October/November**, students will be introduced to various water-related **topics** e.g. pollution, water scarcity, virtual water, water treatment. They will receive training on how to plan an environmental campaign and raise awareness through **communication techniques**. Students must then use these new skills to **plan a campaign** in their school around their preferred water topic, and raise awareness in their wider community by communicating with or linking in with a **local community group or business**. At least **two forms of communication should be used** – for example: speaking on local radio, making quizzes, intercom announcements, delivering presentations, using the school notice board, having a stand at open days, leaflets, text-a-parent, linking with local groups, hosting documentary screening or making informative videos. If ambassadors would like Green-Schools to follow their school's social media page or share their work please contact the water team on water@greenschoolsireland.org

The Green-Schools Coordinator and/or supporting **teacher must also attend** the training days to chaperone students and partake in water focused training.

All water ambassadors and coordinators/supporting teachers are asked to also attend a **support session in February/March (details will be sent in early January)** which will provide a chance to share ideas and learn from last year's ambassadors. Students and coordinators/supporting teachers will be required to complete a brief progress report by Friday 19th January which allows us to identify where people are having difficulties and what they are interested in, allowing us to tailor the support sessions.

After ambassadors have communicated with their school and community, they **must complete a short final report form and submit it by Friday 19th of April**. The report asks the below questions:

1. What did you learn from the Green-Schools water ambassador programme?
2. How did you share your experience and with whom?
3. How will you use the information from the programme in the future?

Please note the reports must be completed by the ambassadors.

At least **two forms of supporting information** should be submitted with the report form. For example:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Photos in jpeg form (5 max)
- Videos in mp4 format if possible (or send us link to YouTube/Vimeo private video)
- Sound recordings in mp3 format if possible

A separate coordinator report will also need to be completed in April and this form will be emailed directly to the teacher for completion.

Upon receipt of all ambassador reports, a panel of experts will choose regional and runner-up regional ambassador winners who will then be invited to attend a special awards ceremony in May 2024. Furthermore, all ambassadors may be invited to attend future events to share all that they have learned during the programme and gain further communication skills. All ambassadors who complete the programme will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth or Caoimhe on 087-1469480 and/or email: water@greenschoolsireland.org
