

SECONDARY WATER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Loreto Secondary School

Bray, Wicklow

The Green-Schools Committee focused on water conservation and access to clean water, both locally and globally. Key infrastructure improvements included replacing twist taps with push taps for greater water efficiency, installing a sensor-operated water fountain and introducing rainwater harvesting for the school's garden and polytunnel.

The school placed strong emphasis on education and awareness, using Instagram to promote sustainable habits and distributing wallet-sized water-saving tip cards to students, staff and parents. The Environment Committee organised a school-wide Walk for Water to highlight the global water crisis, especially the burden placed on women in the Global South. This was supported by talks and workshops from organisations like Concern and World Vision, addressing water access, fast fashion and environmental justice.

To further embed these values, the school held themed weeks such as Environment Week and Marine Week, featuring workshops, scavenger hunts, film screenings and awareness displays. Collaborating with local Tidy Towns groups, students also carried out regular beach and river clean-ups. The collected waste was displayed to educate the community on the importance of protecting local waterways and to reinforce the school's broader environmental goals.

