

Report on	Eco Schools Green Flag Awards 2023
Date of Meeting	3 rd July 2023
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste & Sustainable Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Eco Schools Green Flag Awards Ceremony 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides participating schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. The Eco-Schools programme is an internationally recognised Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) programme now operating in 72 countries worldwide, representing more than 59,000 schools and 20 million pupils.</p> <p>Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is administered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) with financial support from DAERA and all 11 local Councils.</p> <p>The programme encourages and directs young people to think about litter, waste, recycling, climate action, energy saving, water conservation, transport options, biodiversity, marine life and healthy living. Also, to think about the natural environment, that they are custodians of, and to make positive choices for a better future. By studying a combination of these topics and undertaking project work and activities around these, schools can work towards the prestigious Green Flag Award which is a recognised and respected eco-label for environmental education and performance.</p>

<p>3.0 Main Report</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>To recognise the schools across Mid Ulster who have achieved a Green Flag award during the 2022/23 academic year, an awards ceremony was hosted at Hill of The O’Neill, Dungannon on Friday 9th June. The event was coordinated by the Eco Schools Team, with venue and catering costs covered by the Council. The awards were presented by the television and radio personality Mr Frank Mitchell.</p> <p>A total of 22 schools, 21 primary and 1 secondary, from across Mid Ulster were awarded a Green Flag (with five of these schools unable to attend the event on the day) as listed below. Three additional special awards were also received as shown below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 660 1388 1556"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Green Flag Award Recipients</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Bush Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td>Ballylifford Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td><i>*Carntall Primary School</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Cookstown Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td><i>*Derrchrin Primary School</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Donaghey Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td>Donaghmore Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td><i>*Holy Trinity Primary School</i></td></tr> <tr><td><i>*Lissan Primary School</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Newmills Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td>Orritor Primary School</td></tr> <tr><td>Sacred Heart Primary School, Rock</td></tr> <tr><td>St Joseph’s Primary School, Galbally</td></tr> <tr><td><i>*St Mary’s Primary School, Aughnacloy</i></td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Primary School, Bellaghy</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Primary School, Cabragh</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Primary School, Glenview</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Primary School, Greenlough</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Primary School, Pomeroy</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt</td></tr> <tr><td>St Patrick’s Primary School, The Loup</td></tr> <tr><td>Woods Primary School</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Schools unable to attend</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1624 1388 1792"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Special Award Recipients</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ben McQueen, Donaghey PS</td> <td>Eco-Pupil of the year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aileen McLea, St Mary’s PS, Bellaghy</td> <td>Eco-Teacher of the year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newmills Primary School</td> <td>Eco-School of the year</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All of the awarded schools have made fantastic efforts with their environmental work and many have extended this work beyond their school grounds into the wider community. A significant amount of both time and effort is required in order to achieve a Green Flag Award and the schools achieving this during the 2022/23 academic year have worked tirelessly with great dedication during the past two years. It has been encouraging to see many schools resume their environmental</p>	Green Flag Award Recipients		Bush Primary School	Ballylifford Primary School	<i>*Carntall Primary School</i>	Cookstown Primary School	<i>*Derrchrin Primary School</i>	Donaghey Primary School	Donaghmore Primary School	<i>*Holy Trinity Primary School</i>	<i>*Lissan Primary School</i>	Newmills Primary School	Orritor Primary School	Sacred Heart Primary School, Rock	St Joseph’s Primary School, Galbally	<i>*St Mary’s Primary School, Aughnacloy</i>	St Mary’s Primary School, Bellaghy	St Mary’s Primary School, Cabragh	St Mary’s Primary School, Glenview	St Mary’s Primary School, Greenlough	St Mary’s Primary School, Pomeroy	St Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt	St Patrick’s Primary School, The Loup	Woods Primary School	Special Award Recipients		Ben McQueen, Donaghey PS	Eco-Pupil of the year	Aileen McLea, St Mary’s PS, Bellaghy	Eco-Teacher of the year	Newmills Primary School	Eco-School of the year
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	work this academic year following the restrictions imposed within schools during the Covid-19 pandemic. Green Flag awards are valid for a two year period after which time schools will be required to submit a renewal application.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Total Cost to Council = £1,442 (Venue Hire £430 and Catering £1,012). Council previously approved a contribution of £4,975 for Eco Schools support in 2023/24 which includes £2,000 contribution towards the cost of the Awards Ceremony.
	Human: Significant officer time is spent in assisting and liaising with schools on their journey towards a Green Flag award.
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The opportunity to participate in the Eco Schools programme is open to all schools across Mid Ulster including Primary, Secondary and Special Needs.
	Rural Needs Implications: As Above
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Selection of Photographs from Green Flag Awards Ceremony.



Eco Schools Award Group Photo 1



Eco Schools Award Group Photo 2



Biodiversity Presentation by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful



Eco School of the Year – Newmills Primary



Eco Pupil of the Year - Ben McQueen



Eco Teacher of the Year - Aileen McLea