

Report on	Eco Schools Green Flag Awards 2022
Date of Meeting	4 th July 2022
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karen Brown, Recycling Education & Awareness Officer

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 for Mid Ulster.
2.0	Background
2.1	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. Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is administered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) with financial support from DAERA and all 11 local Councils.
2.2	The programme encourages and directs young people to think about litter, waste and recycling, climate action, energy saving, water conservation, transport options, biodiversity, marine life, healthy living and the natural environment they are custodians of, and 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.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To recognise the schools across Mid Ulster who have achieved a Green Flag award during the 2021/22 academic year, an awards ceremony was hosted at Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon on Thursday 16 th June. The event was coordinated by the Eco Schools Team with support including venue and catering costs covered by Council.
3.2	The event was attended by the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner, Koulla Yiasouma, along with the Council Chair, Chair of the Environment Committee, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Assistant Director and Recycling Officer.
3.3	A total of 23 schools, both primary and secondary, from across Mid Ulster were awarded a Green Flag, with 5 of these schools achieving Ambassador School Status and some others receiving special awards received as detailed below:

Green Flag Award	
Churchtown PS	
Coagh PS	
Dungannon PS	
Fivemiletown College	
Fivemiletown PS	
Gaelscoil na Speirini	
Holy Family PS, Magherafelt	
Holy Family PS, Aughamullan	
Howard PS, Dungannon	
Kilronan Special School, Magherafelt	
Money more PS	
New Row PS, Castledawson	
Phoenix Integrated PS, Cookstown	
Roan St Patrick's PS, Eglish	
Sperrin Integrated College, Magherafelt	
St Columba's PS, Straw	
St Eoghan's PS, Moneyneena	
St John Bosco PS, Ballynease	
St John's PS, Moy	
St Mary' PS, Draperstown	
St Patrick's College, Maghera	
St Trea's PS, Magherafelt	
Walker Memorial PS, Castlecaulfield	

Ambassador Schools	
Holy Family Primary School, Aughamullan	
Kilronan Special School, Magherafelt	
St Columba's PS, Straw	
St Mary's PS, Draperstown	
St Colm's HS, Draperstown	

Special Awards	
Howard PS, Dungannon	Biodiversity Champion
Newmills PS	Eco-Teacher of the year
St John's PS, Moy	Eco-School of the year

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 2021/22 academic year have worked tirelessly with great dedication during the past two years despite the challenges imposed upon schools as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and regulations. Green Flag awards are valid for a two year period after which time schools should submit a renewal application.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Venue hire £430 and catering £1115.50 so total cost to Council was £1545.50

	Human: Significant officer time assisting and liaising with schools on their journey towards a Green Flag award.
	Risk Management: Schools to carry out their own risk assessments for any projects/work where this is deemed necessary.
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: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Selection of photographs from Green Flag Awards Ceremony.