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**Larkin Community College Students Help Launch the New Green-Schools Website!**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Green-Schools, the hugely successful international environmental education programme administered in Ireland by An Taisce, launched a brand new website this week in Larkin Community College, who were awarded their first Green Flag last year; [www.greenschoolsireland.org](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org) features a new design and layout, improved navigation, specialised information, and rich content, making the website more effective and user friendly. It has been redesigned to give users an improved sense of what Green-Schools is about as well as developing the website's role as a primary source of information about the programme.

Cathy Baxter, Green-Schools manager says: "We are always impressed by the innovative and creative approaches schools employ when undertaking the programme and are delighted to have a new platform to display these accomplishments. We envisage the site will develop as the programme has, growing stronger every year."

The Green-Schools programme has experienced phenomenal growth since it's inception in Ireland in 1997. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, there are over 3,600 schools registered with 2309 proudly flying the Green flag. The programme has grown both in size and scope to include primary, secondary and third level colleges.

The new site incorporates many new features including: a resources section; useful links; media gallery; case studies; upcoming events; integrated Twitter and Flickr; and a news blog. Another major new feature is the online application facility where schools can submit their Green Flag applications online, allowing applications to be processed efficiently as well as reducing the programmes overall paper consumption.

The Green-Schools programme is operated in partnership with Local Authorities and is supported by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, Department of Transport, National Transport Authority and NPWS. The programme is sponsored by Repak, the Wrigley Company Limited and HSBC.

## **About Green-Schools**

Green-Schools, (known internationally as Eco-Schools), is an international environmental management education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole-school action for the environment. Green-Schools is an initiative of FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). Green-Schools began as a pilot project in the UK, Denmark, Germany, France and Portugal in 1994. Currently over 50 countries from Europe, Africa, South America, Asia and Oceania are participating in the Eco-Schools Programme. There are now over 40,000 schools participating in the programme worldwide and over 11 million students are involved.

The Green-Schools programme is based on a seven step environmental management system and continual improvement process which is very much student led and also involves the wider community. The programme also promotes good citizenship among participants. Green-Schools is a themed programme with schools initially working on the theme of Litter and Waste and then moving onto themes such as Energy, Water, School Travel and Biodiversity. Schools that successfully implemented the programme are awarded the Green Flag. The award must be renewed every 2 years.