



Promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools is a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community. The programme is operated and co-ordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (FEE member for Ireland).

We are delighted to have achieved our first flag under the theme of Litter and Waste.

We are very conscious and diligent with our efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle. As a school, we acknowledge the efforts of individuals are so important to making a difference to ensure our environment continues to be a safe and beautiful place.

# WATER

We are currently working towards our next flag which is under the theme of Water.

Water is one of the core themes of the Green-Schools programme. The Water theme looks at developing awareness around water conservation and how to effectively manage this important resource in our schools and at home.

- Over one billion men, women and children do not have enough safe, clean water to drink.
- The lack of safe drinking water is the primary cause of disease in the world today.
- Contaminated water causes 80% of the health problems throughout the world.
- One out of every 4 deaths in children under the age of five worldwide is due to a water related disease.
- These problems exist in overcrowded urban slums, refugee camps and in poverty stricken rural towns and villages in countries around the world.



Most of us are guilty to some extent of taking water for granted. Water comes out of our taps and it goes down the drain. In between we use it to brush our teeth or to do the dishes. However, water is a crucial aspect of our lives, not only for drinking and washing, but also for use in industry, agriculture and making almost any kind of product, from hamburgers and tin cans to newspapers and cars. Our demand for water has grown to the point that the natural water cycle can no longer keep up.



What can we do?

- Turn off the taps when not in use.
- Fix any leaks or dripping taps.

Did you know that a tap dripping once a second wastes 45,000 litres of water a year. That's the same as 600 baths full of water!

- Have a short shower or a partially filled bath.
- Don't flush the toilet every time you put a tissue in it.
- Turn off the running water unless needed when brushing your teeth.
- Use your dishwasher for full loads only.
- Rinse your vegetables in a bowl or sink of clean water instead of leaving the faucet run.

- Soap down your car from a pail of soapy water. Use a hose only to rinse it off.
- Turn off the urinals at the end of the day and at weekends.
- Use a plug in the sink for washing after art classes.
- Harvest the water from the rain to use in watering our plants or washing our cars.