

Application Questions for The Green Flag Award.

School: St. Aidan's N.S.
Clonroche,
Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford.





About Us

Our school is situated on the main Enniscorthy to New Ross Road (N30/formerly N79). It is a short distance from Clonroche Village and ten miles from Enniscorthy. We have the following teachers - five classroom teachers, a learning support teacher, a resource teacher for travellers and a part-time resource teacher. A shared resource teacher for travellers also works in the school.

Our Back-Up Team:

Special Needs Assistant (Colette Keeley)

Special Needs Assistant (Jackie Harrington)

Secretary (Margaret Cloke)

Cleaner (Mary Buckley)

Caretaker (Robin Peter Varey)

We registered for the Green-Schools programme in September 2007.

Application Questions

- 1. Who sits on your green school committee and how were the members selected?*

Jean Goff: Third and fourth class teacher and Green-Schools coordinator.

Norma Doyle: Principal and fifth and sixth class teacher.

Aideen Cummins, sixth class

Gareth Murphy, sixth class

Sarah Flood, sixth class

Chloe O' Connor, fifth class (secretary and minutes taker at meetings)

Gearóid Blackburn, fifth class

Emma Flood, fifth class

Darragh O' Connor, fifth class

Megan West, fifth class

John Connors, fifth class

Denise Kehoe, fifth class

Talia Murphy, fifth class

Mary Connors, fifth class

Maria Lambert, fifth class

Niamh Asple, fifth class

Áine Joyce, fifth class

Joanne Richards, fifth class

Shannon Hudson, fifth class
Liam O' Rorke, fourth class
Pierce Doyle, fourth class
Kitty Cash, fourth class
Alice Connors, fourth class
Saoirse Hughes, fourth class
Daniel Dempsey, fourth class
Timara Walsh, fourth class
Megan Stacey, fourth class
Hugh Connors, fourth class
Róisín Buckley- Joyce, fourth class
Moesha Dreelan, fourth class
James Dempsey, fourth class
Nikita Buckley, third class
Aoife Murphy, third class
Jessica Earle-Long, third class
Rachel Greene, third class
James Flood, third class
Liam Flood, third class

Jordan Richards, third class

Kyle Murphy, third class

Conor Flood, third class

Johnny Connors, third class

Aaron Kelly, third class

Nick Kavanagh, third class

Aoife Muldoon, third class

Donna Murphy, third class

Éanna Doyle, third class

Eva Joyce, third class

Dylan O' Neill, second class

Chloe Murphy, second class

Fianna Hughes, second class

Leona Buckley, first class

Darragh Doyle, first class

Katie Foley, first class

Eyrn Buckley, senior infants

Guevara Hughes, senior infants

All of third and fourth classes make up the committee because the committee meetings are held in the third and fourth class classroom with the green-schools coordinator, Ms. Goff. Thus it makes sense to include the whole class.

As all of fifth class wanted to be on the green school committee it was decided that they would rotate attendance of Green School meetings throughout the year and news and views would be reported back to the rest of the class.

Former members of the committee who worked very hard to implement the action plan but who have now left the school are; Lee Keeley (former secretary) , Melissa Fenlon, Conor Hudson and Cian O' Connor.

2. How does your committee operate?

The committee generally has a twenty minute meeting once a fortnight or at least once a month. The committee secretary, Chloe O' Connor (fifth class) keeps the records of the meetings. The following are some examples of meeting minutes.

21/11/08

Gareth Murphy and Sarah Flood went around the school searching for litter blackspots. Moesha and Aine got information from Ms. Caulfield on the number of printer cartridges we recycle a year. We recycle approximately two a term and six a year. We used to recycle more cartridges when we had the computer room. Margaret will give the cartridges in the office to Ms. Caulfield. Ms. Caulfield gives the cartridges to charity and they make money by recycling them. Gareth and Sarah informed the committee about the litter blackspots in the school. Two children from the committee will check these areas every Friday. Any litter found will be collected and sorted into recyclable material and waste. Gareth and Sarah visited each of the classes and asked them to throw their rubbish in the correct bins.

Signed: Lee Keeley

Secretary

12/12/08

Robin Varey, the caretaker attended our meeting today. We asked him about the shredded paper. He said that at present it goes to landfill. Liam O' Rourke will ask his mother can we donate the paper for animal bedding as she works in a veterinary clinic. Some of the children will take the shredded paper for their pets. The composter bin is now set up. There will be one child per class in charge of composting each week. Robin will put a lock on the bin,

Signed; Chloe O' Connor

22/1/09

The committee members will make roll call slips out of old scraps of paper so we can reuse unwanted paper. On 22nd January we did a special quiz, (environmental review). Next week we are going to find out how to tackle our problems. Infants have no drinks' cartons to waste. They keep refilling their bottles.

Signed: Lee Keeley.

27/03/09

We are all going to eat our bread , crackers and rolls in the class so there won't be any of them on the yard! Cian, Darragh, Gareth, Rachel, Saoirse and Dylan are on clean up today.

Duties of a Litter warden

- 1. Check that each person going out to the yard is not bringing rolls , bread or crackers.*
- 2. Check that cereal bar wrappers are placed in the bin on the way out.*
- 3. Check that uneaten bread is put back into your lunchbox.*
- 4. Make sure that the classroom is cleaned with the dustpan at the end of each day.*
- 5. Report offenders to the committee.*

Signed: Lee Keeley

22/05/09

Talia Murphy is writing a blog on the internet for children or adults to have a look at. The Green School Committee is ordering more litter grabbers. There are a lot of people still throwing fag butts on the ground , so we are asking the children's' parents not to smoke outside the school at 2 o' clock and 3 o' clock. We have decided to make a no smoking sign to stop the parents throwing fag butts on the ground outside the school.

The Clonroche Development Association are coming to take a picture of the litter wardens at work. We are working on

getting vests for the litter wardens. We are planning on having our Seachtain na Gaeilge in June this year. We will have a Green Competition using recyclable papers for art and making hats. We could also make recyclable flags for our Seachtain na Gaeilge. The winners will get a prize.

Signed: Chloe O' Connor

11/09/09

Ms. Goff and Ms. Flood were delighted that all the children worked very hard to keep the grounds tidy during the field evening.

Second class won the litter league and were rewarded with a trophy.

James Dempsey suggested that when the Winter kicks in we can start a Litter League inside. We voted to continue with the Litter League outside for now.

Litter League areas

- 1. Carpark: Fifth and Sixth*
- 2. Front yard and shelter: Ms. O' Brien's infants.*
- 3. Gable end and side bank : Ms. Denton's children (Infants and First)*
- 4. Back court and Canon Murphy Park side: Second Class*
- 5. Pitch: Third and Fourth*

Signed: Chloe O' Connor

3. How did you undertake your environmental review?

The environmental review was undertaken using the checklist of questions in the green schools Litter and Waste handbook.

4. Who was involved in the review?

The green school committee was involved in the review.

5. What were the results obtained?

The **environmental review** helped us to identify *where* and *when* there was a problem with litter in the school.

The following **green friendly** activities were already taking place in the school.

Newspaper recycling; There are two newspaper recycling bins on site in the school. The newspapers are collected



once a fortnight by a company called Recycling 2000. The company shreds the newspapers and they are used as bedding for horses.

The amount of newspapers collected in the school in 2007 was 1870kgs. This dropped dramatically in 2008 presumably due to doorstep recycling. **The amount of newspapers collected for 2008 was 550kgs.**

Plastic and Paper recycling; Third and fourth class have a rota where they collect empty juice cartons, plastic bottles and paper from each classroom once a day for recycling.



Printer cartridge recycling; Ms. Caulfield , the I.T. coordinator in the school ensures that printer cartridges used in the school are collected for recycling and the money goes to charity.



Healthy Lunch Policy; The school has a healthy lunch policy in place. Fizzy drink cans, crisps and sweets / bars of chocolate are all on the list of non- recommended foods and therefore this type of rubbish is not generated by the children in school.



The litter situation in the school was surveyed for a week by members of the Green School Committee at the end of January 09. It was concluded that the following were the worst times for litter in the school grounds.

WORST TIMES FOR LITTER IN SCHOOL GROUNDS.

1. **Monday mornings** : A lot of people enter the school grounds at the weekend and leave rubbish behind them.
2. **After lunch break.**
3. **After small break.**
4. **At home time** :two and three o' clock.

When assessing where the litter problem was at its worst in the school, the following areas were selected as litter blackspots and they were photographed by four children from fourth class with the help of Ms. Caulfield.

Litter Blackspots

1. Under and around the resource cabin/prefab.
2. Around the black wheelie bins.
3. Around the green recycling bins.
4. On the side bank.

5. In the hedges and fences around the school.

6. In the shelter.

7. In the car park.



The side bank with the resource cabin in the background.



Around the shelter.

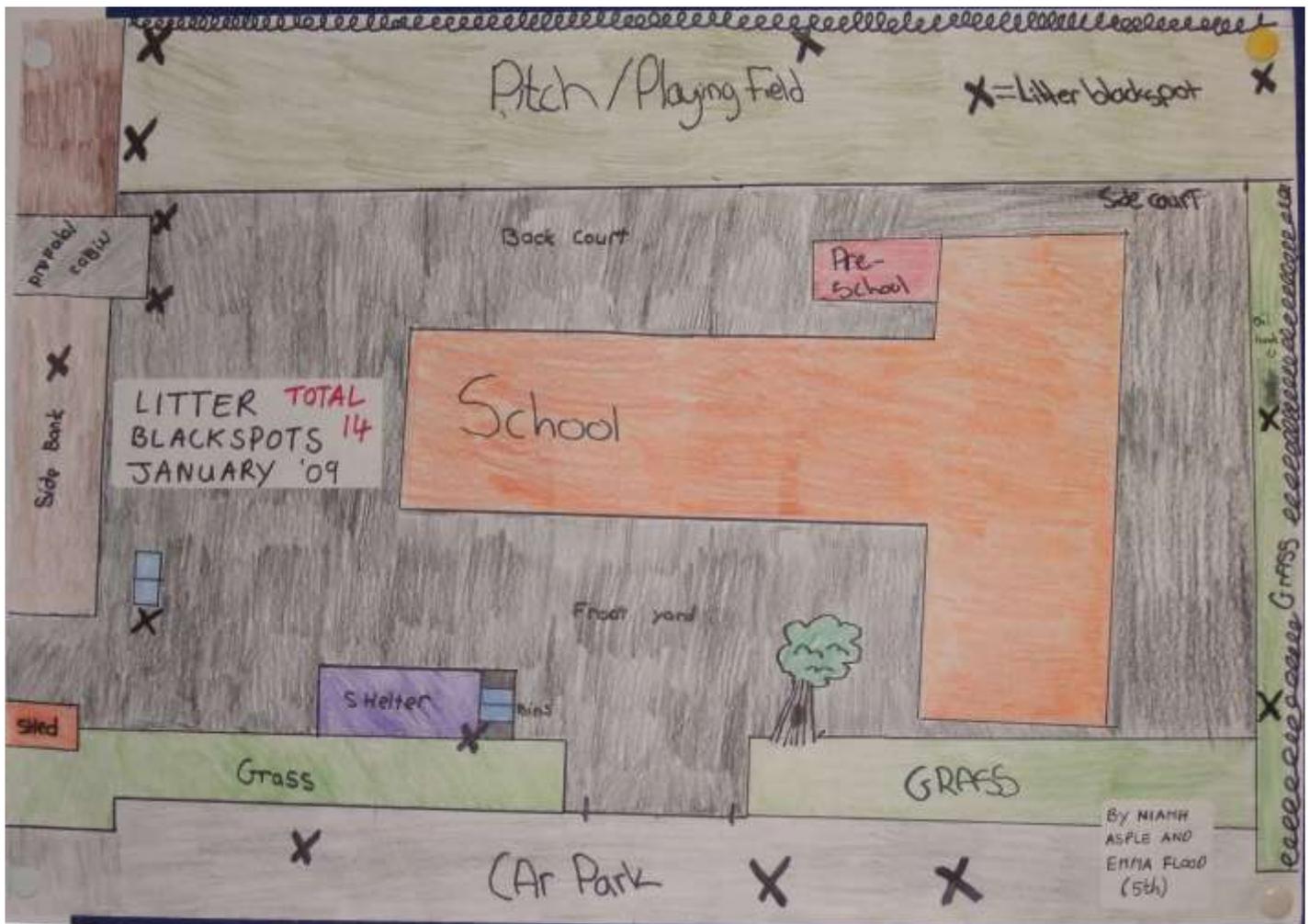


The fencing and hedges around the school.



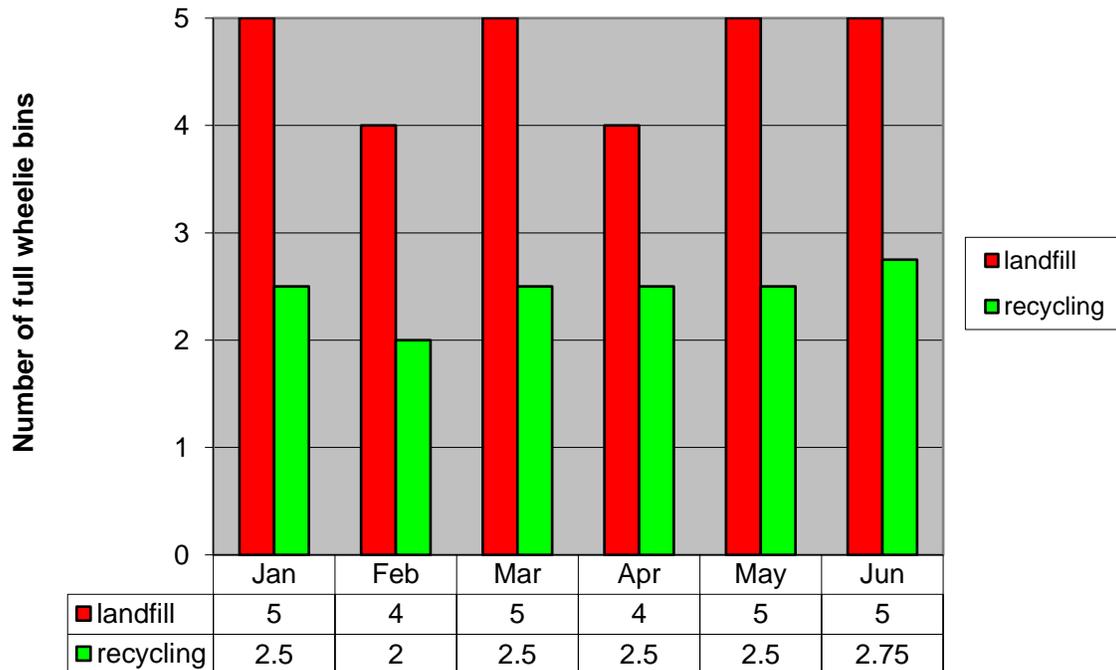
The school car park.

This map of our school was drawn by two committee members, Niamh Asple and Emma Flood. The litter blackspots are marked on the map with a black X.



The following chart shows the number of wheelie bins packed full of rubbish and going to landfill every month from January to June 2008.

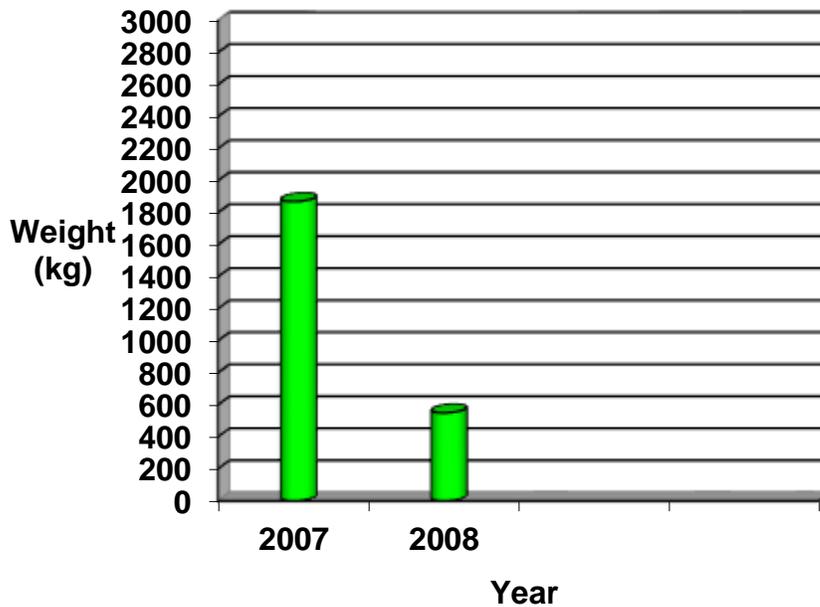
Number of wheelie bins going to landfill and recycling.



Throughout these six months St. Aidan's N.S. had two 240 litre bins of rubbish crammed to the top along with at least 4 or 5 additional bags every fortnight. This amounted to at least four full wheelie bins and 8 extra bags of rubbish every month which is equivalent roughly to 1000 litres of rubbish per month. Basically the school was sending over 1000 litres of rubbish to landfill every month. The recycling bins were also overflowing with juice cartons, plastic bottles, yoghurt cartons and paper and storage of all the extra waste was a continuous problem.

Newspapers collected on site for recycling

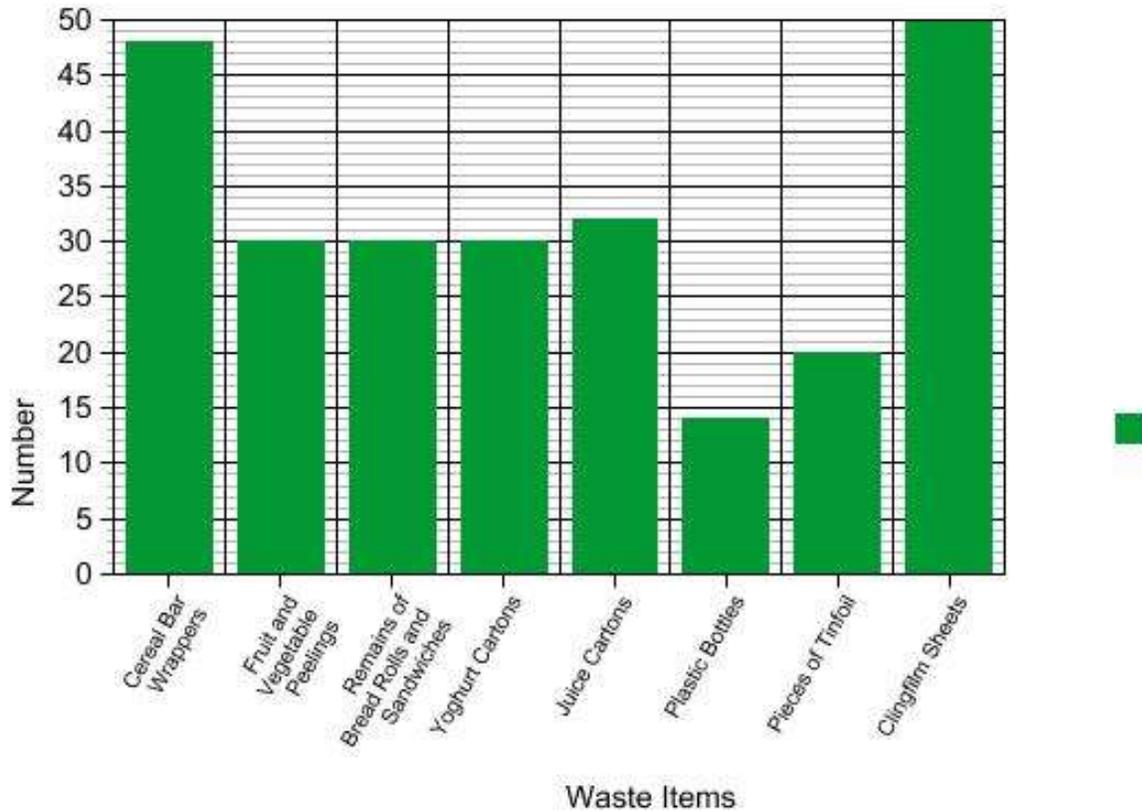
Newspapers collected by Clonroche N.S. for recycling.



This graph highlights the considerable drop in newspaper recycling in our school during 2008. The committee believes this was due to doorstep recycling.

As part of our environmental review we carried out a **lunchtime waste survey**.

Our Lunchtime Waste Survey on an average day in November 2008



Total: 254 pieces of rubbish ending up in school bins on an average day.

The following graph shows what waste was generated from our lunches on *an average day in November 2008*.

Cereal bar wrappers	48
Fruit and vegetable peelings	30
Remains of bread rolls and sandwiches	30
Yoghurt cartons	30
Juice cartons	32

Plastic bottles 14

Pieces of tinfoil 20

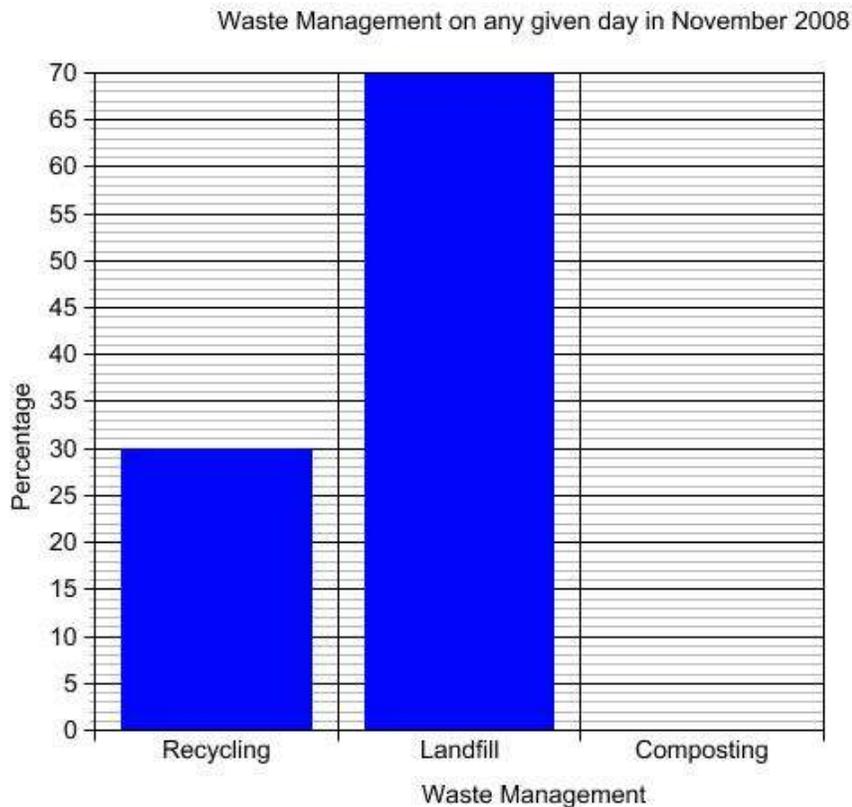
Clingfilm sheets 50

Total: 254 pieces of rubbish ending up in school bins on an average day.

The breakdown of waste on any given day in November '08 was as follows.

Recycling	76 out of 254	30%
Landfill	178 out of 254	70%
Composting	0 out of 254	0%

The following graph shows where the waste went.



Q.6 How did you decide on the targets for your action plan?

The targets for the action plan were decided on by the committee by examining the results of the environmental review.

The following table shows our action plan.

GOAL: To make the school grounds litter free and to reduce the waste going to landfill by 50%.

ACTION	GROUP / PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIMEFRAME
Get a composter for the school and organise collection of organic waste.	Green- School Coordinator, caretaker and Gareth Murphy, sixth class committee member.	Target achieved December '08 and collection of organic waste is ongoing.
Collect batteries for recycling to prevent them being sent to landfill where	Third and Fourth class and all pupils and staff in the school.	Target achieved in November '08 and ongoing.

they can cause heavy metal poisoning.		
Establish mobile phone recycling in school.	Green-school coordinator and green-school committee.	Target achieved in October '08 and ongoing.
Collect litter in the school grounds everyday after lunch.	Two litter wardens per class based on a rota.	Target achieved in April '09 and ongoing through the litter league.
All bread, rolls and crackers to be eaten inside the school and no wrappers to be brought out on the yard.	Litter wardens in each class responsible for checking that nobody is bringing wrappers or bread out onto the yard.	Target achieved in March '09 and ongoing.
Establish a green school section on the website.	Ms. Caulfield, Talia Murphy, Áine Joyce, Maria Lambert, Shannon Hudson. (Fourth Class)	Target achieved in December '08.

Pack a waste free lunch.	All pupils, parents and staff members.	Target not achieved yet but good progress is being made in this area as can be seen in the lunchtime waste survey.
Conserve paper by A) using the interactive white board instead of photocopying in so far as possible. B) Photocopying back to back copies and C) Using all pages in copies.	School Secretary, Teachers and Pupils.	Target achieved in October '09 and ongoing.
Establish a Text-Parent Service.	School Principal and Board of Management.	Target not achieved yet but we have registered for the service.

Q7. How are you monitoring and evaluating your goals?

We are monitoring and evaluating our progress primarily through the use of a litter league. The school grounds have been divided into five areas and each class grouping has responsibility for an area.

The litter wardens from each class grouping check their area for litter after lunch everyday. The grounds are inspected every Friday by the green school coordinator and each area is marked out of ten. A score of 10 means that the area is litter free. One mark is deducted for any piece of litter found. The results are displayed on the green school notice board.

The first litter league winners were Second Class of '08/'09 and they received a trophy. Each weekly winning class receives a special treat.

Two members of the green school committee; Daniel Dempsey and James Flood check the bins going to landfill and recycling each week and record the amounts.

The green school committee meets regularly to monitor and evaluate progress towards our targets and goal.

Q.8 How far have you progressed towards your goals?

The following graphs and charts show how far we have progressed towards achieving our goals. Also, the plan of action outlines when we met certain targets and what actions are still ongoing to meet further targets.

To monitor and evaluate our progress in making the school a litter free zone, the following survey was given to parents of children on the Green-schools committee. Only one survey was given per family.

PARENTAL SURVEY ON LITTER AND WASTE IN ST. AIDAN'S N.S. CLONROCHE

As parents of members of our school's green school committee, we would appreciate it if you took the time to complete this survey. Its purpose is to assess how far we have progressed towards our goal of making the school litter free.

1. How would you describe the litter situation in St. Aidan's N.S., Clonroche?

- A) Litter free. (No litter on school grounds)
- B) Mainly litter free. (Some small items, e.g. cigarette butts)
- C) Quite a lot of litter. (Large items that are easily visible)
- D) Heavily littered. (Disgusting)

2. Do you think the litter situation has improved in the school since registration for the Green School programme?

Yes _____

No _____

3. Do you think that by being on the *Green School Committee* your child's attitude to litter has changed? How?

4. Does your child make an effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste at home as well as in school?

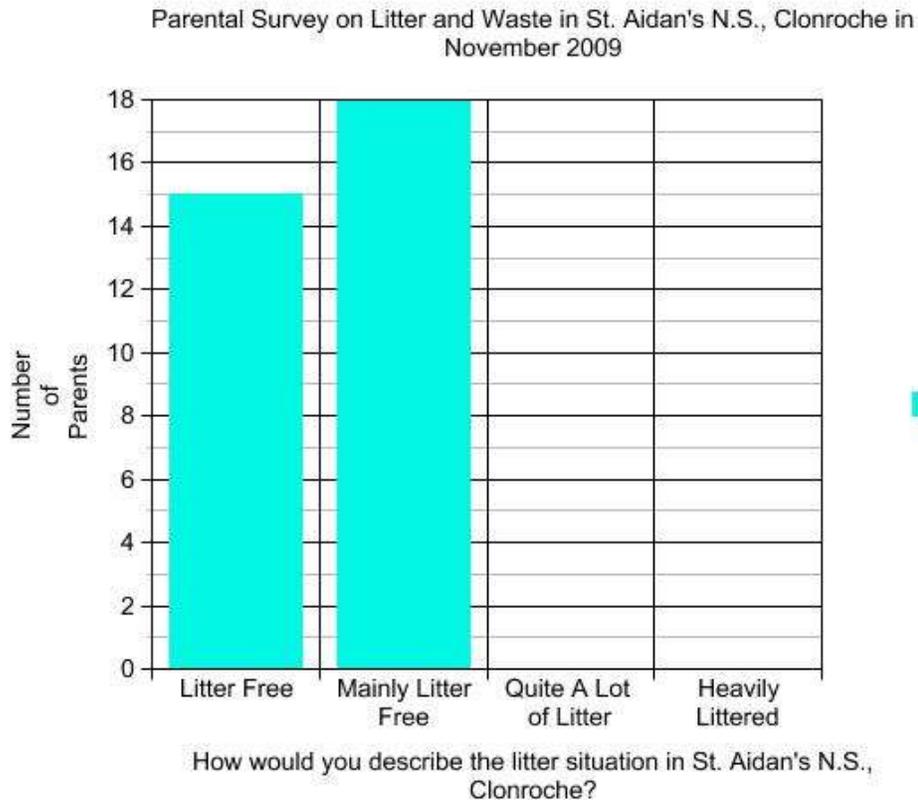
Yes _____

No _____

Any other comments?

Thank you for your cooperation,
The *Green School Committee*.

The results of the survey were as follows.



Of the 33 surveys completed and returned, 15 parents described the school grounds as "litter free". 18 described the grounds as "mainly litter free". None of the parents felt that the school had quite a lot of litter or that it was heavily littered.

All of the surveys indicated that the litter situation had improved since registration for the Green-Schools programme.

All of the parents surveyed felt that their child's attitude to litter had changed since joining the green-schools committee.

32 out of the 33 parents surveyed felt that the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle were also being implemented at home.

The following are some of the comments parents made on their surveys.

"My child would comment if he sees other people littering."

"Their awareness of litter inside and outside the school has increased greatly. They also point adults in the right direction."

" Yes. More conscious of what he brings in lunchbox re wrappers, drinks' bottles etc. Generally more aware of what can be recycled"

"Given the after school visitors and the fact that the school is situated beside a busy road, I think it is amazing that the school environs are usually Litter free. Well done to all!"

"Yes. She gives out if I drop cigarette butts anywhere! (Which is good) "

"The Green School programme has given him pride in the school environment and he is looking out for green flags in other schools".

"Yes, children have become more aware of recycling, reusing and reducing."

"It's great for the pupils to have such pride in their school."

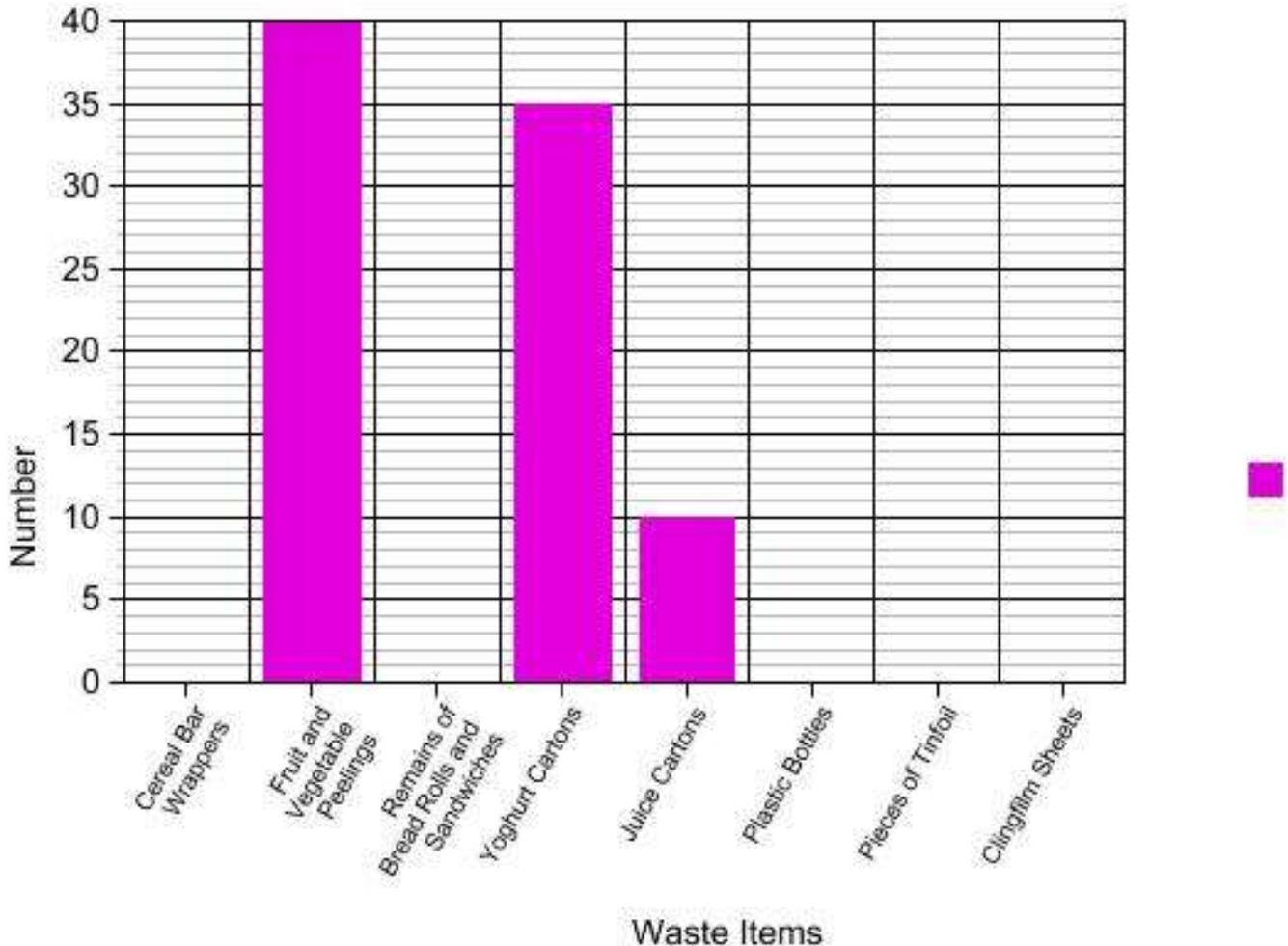
" The school grounds look very well. It's great to see the children having an interest in keeping it that way. The awareness of it will stay with them always. Well done."

" He doesn't throw litter around. He puts it in the bin now."

" More aware of litter and recycling."

" She queries about recycling and watches that we recycle correctly."

Our Lunchtime Waste Survey on an average day in November 2009



Total: 85 pieces of rubbish ending up in school bins on an average day.

To monitor our progress towards achieving *our target of a waste free lunch* we carried out **a lunchtime waste survey in November 2009**, a year on from our lunchtime waste survey of November 2008. The survey was undertaken by Aoife Murphy, third class and James Dempsey, fourth class, both members of the Green-schools committee.

The following chart shows what waste was generated from our lunches on **an average day in November 2009**.

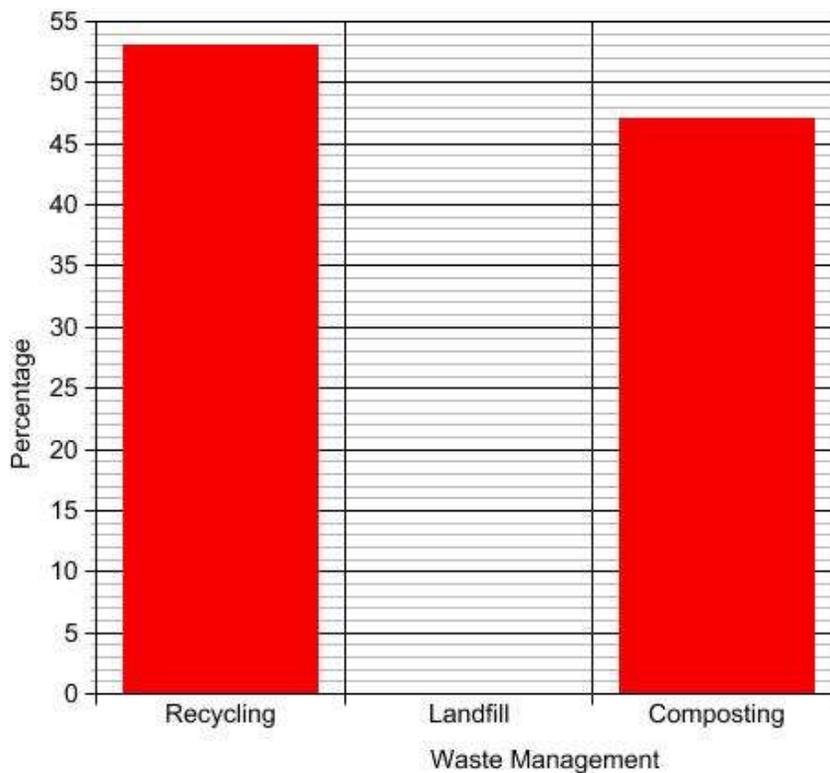
1. Cereal bar wrappers 0
(Any cereal bar wrappers are brought home by the children.)
2. Fruit and Vegetable peelings etc 40
3. Remains of rolls and sandwiches 0
(Any leftover bread is brought home by the children)
4. Yoghurt cartons 35
5. Juice Cartons 10
6. Plastic bottles 0 (the children now use bottles and drink holders that they can refill)
7. Pieces of Tinfoil 0 (Very few children use tinfoil for their sandwiches and those that do bring it home)
8. Clingfilm 0 (As per the tinfoil any clingfilm used is brought home. The children are making a big effort to use a lunchbox only to store sandwiches and if they need clingfilm it is used very sparingly).

Total: 85 pieces of rubbish ending up in school bins on an average day.

The breakdown of lunchtime waste going into the classroom bins on any given day in November 2009 is as follows.

Recycling	45 out of 85	53%
Landfill	0 out of 85	0%
Composting	40 out of 85	47%

Waste Management on any given day in November 2009



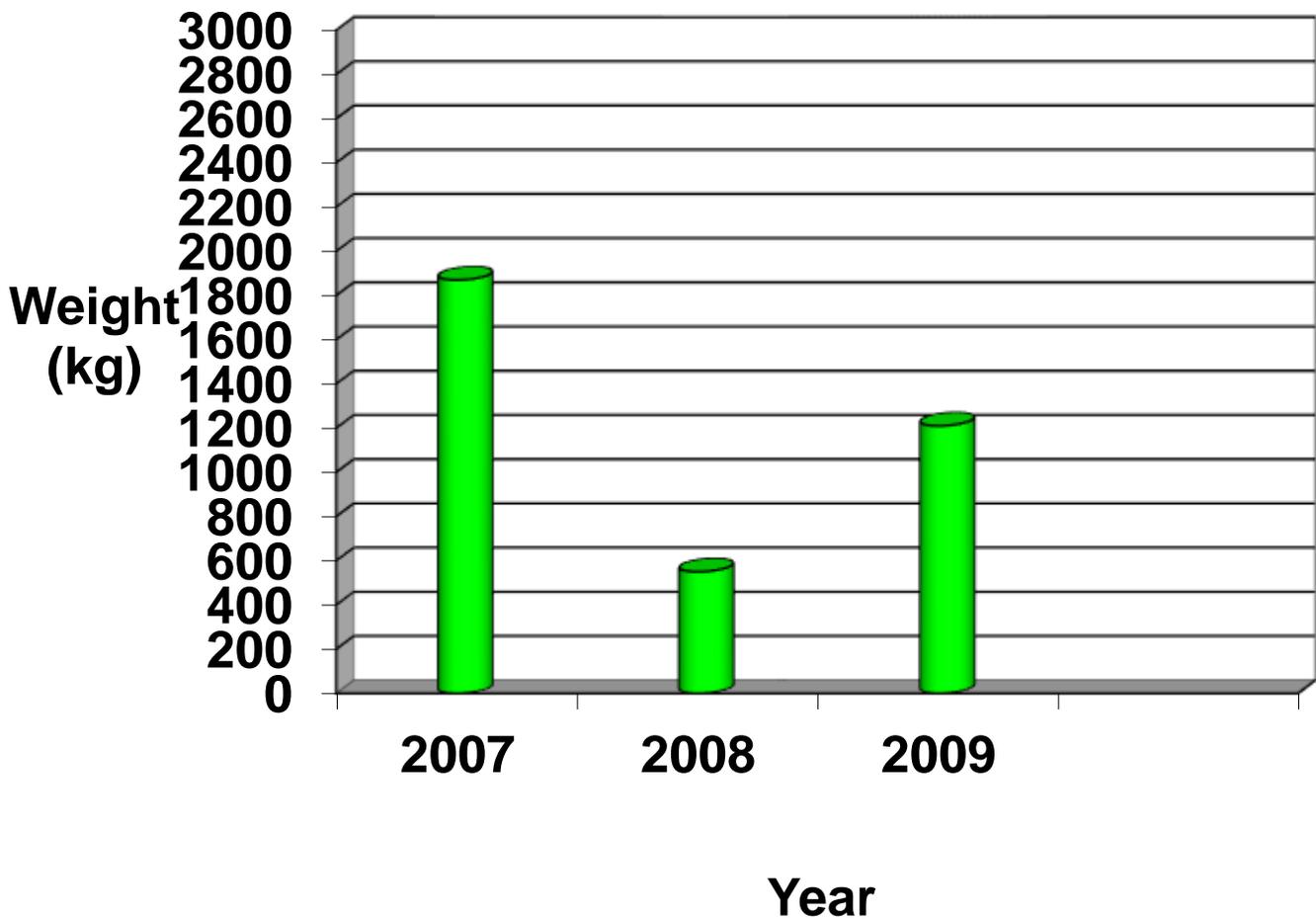
Compared to 2008 levels the amount of lunchtime waste going to landfill in the school is 0%, a reduction of 70%. The amount of waste going to recycling is 53%, an increase of 23%. Finally with the composter now on site and under the care of Gareth Murphy, a sixth class committee member the amount of waste going to composting has increased from 0% to 47%.

Significantly the amount of waste ending up in the school bins has also fallen. The lunchtime survey of November 2008 recorded 254 pieces of rubbish going into the school bins on any given day. The 2009 Lunchtime waste survey recorded 85 pieces of rubbish going into the school bins on any given day. **This is a fall of 33% in the amount of waste ending up in school bins directly from school lunches.**

The committee also made a big effort to increase the amount of newspapers we recycled in 2009 as the amount had fallen sharply in 2008. According to Recycling 2000 we had collected 1200kg of newspapers up to 30/ 10/ 2009.

Newspapers collected on site for recycling

**Newspapers collected by Clonroche
N.S. for recycling.**



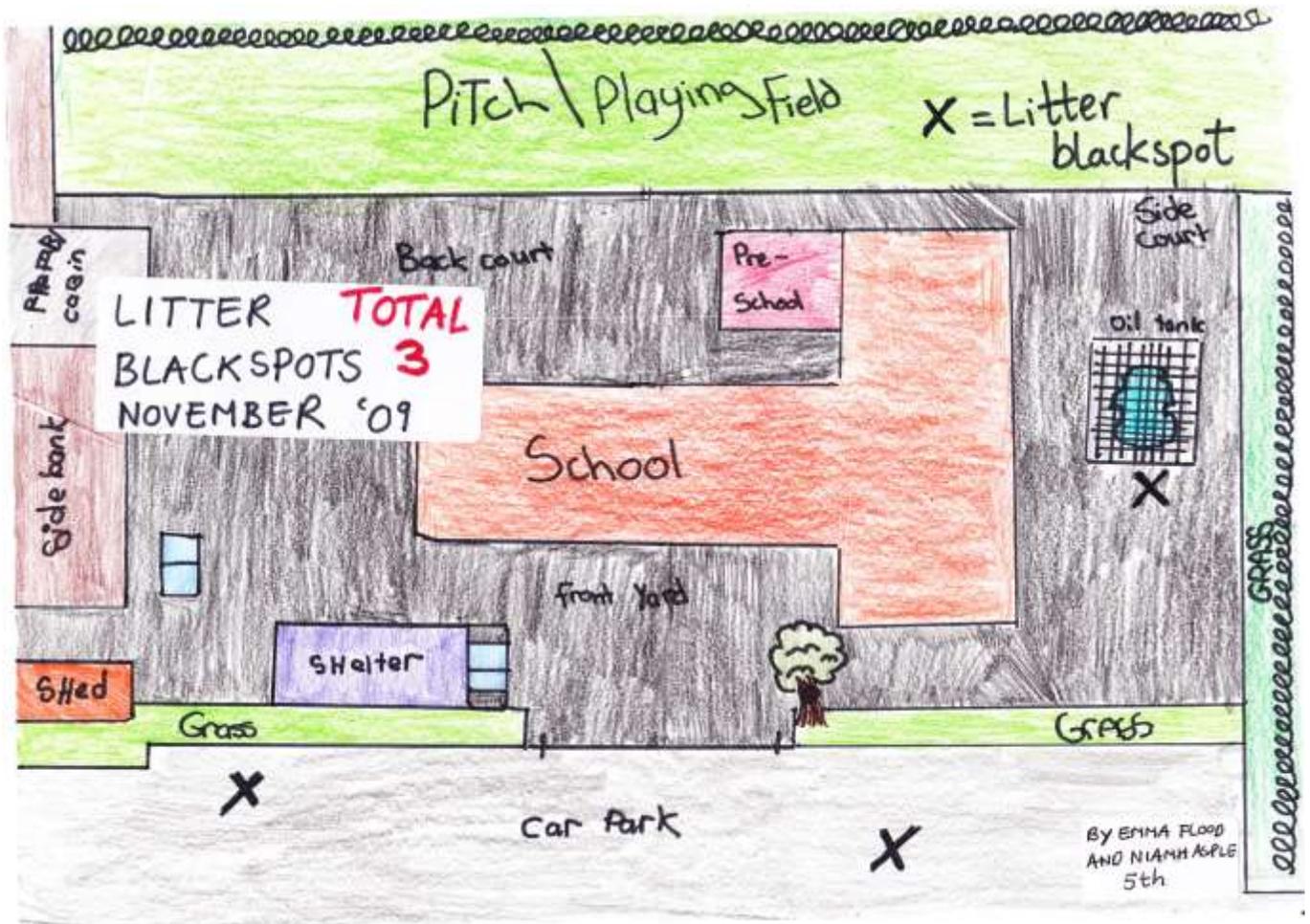
This chart on our green school notice board helps us to compare the amount of waste we are sending to land fill from month to month.



These results from the weekly litter league allow the committee to keep track of litter black spots and the table is also an incentive for the pupils to keep the grounds litter free. This is an excerpt from this year's litter league results table.

Litter League	Week1 19/9/09	Week2 25/9/09	Week3 1/10/09	Week4 9/10/09	Week5 16/10/09	Week6 23/10/09	Week7 6/11/09	Week8 13/11/09
Front Yard Infants	8	9	7	9	8	8	8	9
Side bank and blue newspaper bins First Class and Senior Infants	10	10	9	10	9	10	10	9
Canon Murphy Park side of school and back court. Second Class.	8	10	8	10	10	10	10	10
Back Pitch Third and Fourth	9	9	9	9	9	10	9	10
Carpark Fifth and Sixth	9	9	7	8	8	9	8	9
Weekly Totals	44	47	40	46	44	47	45	47

This map of the school drawn by Emma Flood and Niamh Asple shows where litter blackspots remain. The number of litter blackspots has been reduced from 14 to 3.



This picture was scanned by James Flood 3rd Class.

Q. 9 Has the monitoring and evaluation process helped in amending and improving your action plan? If so, how?

The monitoring and evaluation process has helped in amending and improving our action plan. The Litter League highlighted to the committee, that the car park was the area of the school continually littered and thus the committee had to decide on actions to improve this situation.

Also, the students found the graphs and maps easy to read and progress or lack of progress could be clearly seen.

Q.10 Please give the numbers and ages of students involved in curriculum work, and information on the topics or subject areas addressed.

The following curriculum work was carried out to link the green-schools programme to the curriculum.

The **Junior and Senior infants** washed all yoghurt cartons from their lunches and re-used them to plant seeds linking with the science curriculum. They also used recyclable materials such as empty plastic bottles and Pringles tubs in their art lessons to construct pen pots.

First Class did a series of science lessons on materials and their properties. They divided the materials into categories and classified them as recyclable / reusable / compostable etc.

The children also used their scientific skills to identify and implement strategies to care for and improve the environment in which they live. The suggestions included,

1. Turn off the television when you are not using it.
2. Switch off lights when nobody is in the room.
3. Take a shower instead of a bath.
4. Make sure the washing machine is full before turning it on.
5. Don't always use the car. Walk!
6. Recycle paper, cans, glass and plastic.

First Class also based their Valentine themed art lessons completely around recyclable materials such as newspaper, egg cartons, magazines and bottle tops.



Second class integrated the green school ethos into their lessons. They constructed a block chart showing the breakdown of waste in a classroom over a day.

Third and fourth class made bilingual signs, (linking with the *Gaeilge* curriculum) to denote bins, compost bins, recycling centres, the green school notice board, etc.

To integrate with the English curriculum they composed poems based on the green school themes of waste and litter including the poem " The Twelve Green Days of Christmas", which we put on the school website , www.clonrochens.ie.

Fifth and Sixth class held a competition to compose our green school code. They also held a debate on the topic, "Litter is not my Problem."

Four **Fourth Class** pupils, Áine Joyce, Talia Murphy, Shannon Hudson and Maria Lambert worked with the learning support teacher to photograph the litter black spots for the school. These were then re-photographed after the *Action Day* in March. The "before" and "after" photographs are displayed on the school website, www.clonrochens.ie.

One of the students, Talia Murphy also wrote a blog on our Green School activities again linking with both the I.T. and the English curriculum.

Lessons were carried out by all 115 pupils in the school on *a healthy lunch policy* which was linked to the green school message of preventing and minimising waste.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was held later than normal due to building work being carried on in the school. It took place in the last week of June 2009. There was a hat making competition and the theme was "Recyclable and reusable materials with an Irish twist".

The Green school committee also entered Wexford County Council's "Snap into Action" competition.

Q.11 How was the whole school community informed of, and involved in, all aspects of the Green-Schools programme?

The whole school community was informed and involved in all aspects of the Green-School programme through:

1. The Green-Schools notice board.
2. Whole school assembly on a Monday and Friday morning.
3. The use of the parish newsletter to publicise the programme.
4. The principal liaising with the Board of Management, the Parents' Association and Clonroche Development Association.
5. The Green School section of the school website.

6. The local papers; " The Enniscorthy Guardian" and "Echo".

Q. 12 Describe your Day of Action.

All the pupils and teachers in our school got involved in our Day of Action on 20th March 2009.

Every class was given a specific area of the school grounds to clean. Junior and Senior Infants were given the front of the school and behind the shelter. First class cleaned the bank at the side of the school, second class cleaned the side entrance of the school, third and fourth cleaned under the cabins and all around the bins. Fifth and sixth class cleaned the pitch and around the car park.

For the clean-up we brought in an old t-shirt and rubber gloves and we borrowed litter grabbers from Clonroche Development Association. Four children from fourth class took before and after photographs with Ms. Caulfield. These pictures along with more information on our Day of Action can be viewed on the school website, www.clonrochens.ie.

This report was written by Lee Keeley, Chloe O' Connor, Daniel Dempsey, Moesha Dreelan and Darragh O' Connor, all members of our green school committee.



Q.13 Please describe any contacts made with the wider community.

A Parental survey was sent out in November '09 to determine how attitudes and actions have changed since registration for the Green-Schools programme. The results were outlined previously in the application.

On 5/ 12/ '08 we had a speaker from WEEE Ireland visit the school. We were provided with a large blue bin for one week. The school children with their parents' help brought in electrical items for recycling. The items collected were kettles, irons, hairdryers, cameras, remote controls, game consoles etc. The school received a computer made from recycled products for our efforts.



The school also took part in a clothes and phone recycling initiative with Lenrec Recycling based in Kilkenny. The collection took place on 3/3/09 and 25 bags of clothing were collected as well as 10 phones. The school received money for the goods collected.

We also brought in phones for recycling in aid of the charity, "Friends of Calcutta" and "The Jack and Jill Foundation."

Clonroche Development Association provided us with extra litter grabbers for our Action Day. In the Tidy Town's Competition the adjudicators commented on the following;

Litter Control:

" At the school two young girls, wearing fluorescent jackets, were using litter tongs to clear the area outside the school. Your message is obviously having a good effect."

Q. 14. Please reproduce your school's Green Code. Describe how it was agreed and how it has been integrated into school life.

Green School Code

**Recycling is fun,
Reusing is cool,
Reduce waste at home,
Reduce waste at school,**

**It saves some cash,
The environment too,
Why don't you try it?
Yeah....You!**

The Green School Code is said at assembly and at every green school committee meeting. It is also displayed on the green school notice board. All the pupils in the school are recorded saying the green school code along with actions on the green school section of the school website, www.clonrochens.ie.

As aforementioned, the code was chosen after fifth and Sixth class held a competition to select a suitable green school code. The winning code as shown above was written by Conor Hudson, a former sixth class student and green school committee member.

Our Green School Code.

Recycling is fun,
Re-using is cool,
Reduce waste at home,
Reduce waste at school,
It saves some cash,
The environment too,
Why don't you try it?
Yeah.....you!



Q.15 How has the experience of Green-Schools benefited your school?

The experience of Green-Schools has benefited our school by;

1. Teaching pupils not to litter.
2. The appearance of the school has greatly improved.
3. Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions.
4. Affording pupils with opportunities to work cooperatively.
5. Significantly reducing the amount of waste generated in the school.
6. Increasing levels of student environmental awareness.
7. Increasing pride in our school and community.

We did encounter some *difficulties* with the green-schools programme. Trespassing on school grounds is ongoing and many of these trespassers leave their litter behind them. In addition to this some parents and childminders collecting and dropping off children leave cigarette butts behind them even though the committee has put up signs and sent notes asking for cooperation and support. Still, for the most part the parents, principal, staff and wider community have been very supportive of the

green school committee. The committee themselves have been and continue to be hardworking, enthusiastic and dedicated. They are indeed a credit to their school.

Q. 16 Please add any additional information you feel is relevant to your application.

Our caretaker Robin Varey is very happy with the efforts of the green -school committee. He said that there is a "vast improvement" in the litter situation in the school.

Our cleaning lady Mary Buckley also commented on the amount of rubbish and waste in the school and said that "There is a lot less bins for me to empty!".

Graphs by 3rd Class children: James Flood, Liam Flood, Rachel Greene and Jessica Earle-Long using CREATE A GRAPH.

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