



## Green-Schools

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment.

It is a long-term programme that introduces pupils, teachers, parents and the wider community to the concept of an environmental management system. It fosters a strong sense of citizenship and leadership among participants that spreads far outside the school into the wider community. It brings children into the decision-making process and makes them responsible for their decisions and actions.

A Green Flag is awarded to a school every two years and we St. Mary's National School were awarded our fourth Green Flag in May 2015. This flag was awarded for all the work completed in the school on the theme of travel and on efforts made by the school to create awareness about the impact of modern means of transport on the environment. "MOM" days were held (Move on Mondays), children were encouraged to walk and cycle to school and if coming by car was essential, families were encouraged to car pool.

Previously our school has been awarded Green Flags for Recycling, Energy Conservation and Water Conservation. All of these projects had a direct positive impact on creating a more environmentally sustainable school.

We are currently starting to work on attaining our fifth Green Flag which is on the theme of biodiversity.

We have a Green School Committee made up of children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class and a co-ordinating teacher. Bi-annually a new Green School Committee is elected. We hold many whole school initiatives to get all classes involved, including poster competitions and competitions for slogans etc; We look forward to our work on the Bio-diversity theme and we are hopeful that our 'Bug Hotel' and wildflower garden will be a fitting starting point!