



15 January 2025

Dear Olivia,

Green Flag Award

I am delighted to confirm that you have been successful in being awarded your Eco-Schools Green Flag in June 2024. The Eco-School's team were very impressed with your school's work.

Congratulations to all concerned - staff and pupils alike, and not forgetting the caretaker and many parents who helped your school achieve its environmental targets. You will hold the flag for two years and will be **reapplying in March 2026 to be awarded in June 2026**.

The assessors made the following comments about the **strengths** of your school evident in the assessment visit:

The eco committee at St. Mary's High School have made it their main focus in improving the physical and mental well being of their school for their Green Flag journey. As well as organizing fitness and health days, the school have a wide variety of physical activities on offer for the students. The school have also organized a mental health poster competition and a talk for the staff on menopause. The eco committee has also been busy restoring a green space on the school grounds with new plants and trees planted alongside a biodiversity workshop for Yr9 and a bird workshop for Yr 8. NI Water have provided the school with their very own water butt which will help provide stored rain water for their garden area. Yr10s have been involved in a Renewable Energy project studying the impact of geothermal energy in Iceland. The students have also been involved in fundraising for their link school in Africa as well as the Zambian Street and SVP shoe box appeal. The students have also been organized an Environmental Awareness competition with daily challenges and prizes on offer. The committee has also tackled litter within the school grounds via the Adopt a Spot programme and have carried out waste litter audits in the school's blue bins. A very varied and impactful Green Flag journey, well done!

The assessors made the following **suggestions** which may enhance your Eco-Schools programme going forward:

Link with other post primary eco committees to share ideas and collaborate with an environmental project.

Once again, many congratulations to all and keep up the great work!

Yours sincerely
Charlene McKeown
Environmental Education Manager
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