

# Cycle to School Initiative

## Young Environmentalist Awards success



Following from last year's success at the Young Environmental Awards (YEA) with their project about the Mounthawk Climate Conference, this year's group of students decided to raise awareness about the need for safe cycling to school. They called the project CYCLEHAWKS and entered the YEAs 2024.

Here's what they had to say:

Our team is named Cycle Hawks, and our focus this year is to incentivise students to cycle to school and show them the benefits of doing so. We created a video (<https://youtu.be/S1533xQUVa8>) that helped promote cycling to school which showcased the new facilities available within our school to facilitate cycling. We are also in the process of reaching out to primary schools to be able to teach them about the benefits of cycling, and to incentivise younger generations to have a healthy lifestyle. We created a petition for our local Council to highlight the need to create safer routes to school and enhanced road safety measures, and we had over 1300 people sign it, parents and students alike. The petition was presented to the members of Kerry County Council at their meeting on 4th March 2024.

On May 17th we organised a Cycle Day where students and teachers were encouraged to cycle to school. As part of the day the group of almost one hundred students and teachers took a trip into and around the town. Due to the large turnout we had a Garda escort into town. We were very happy with the success of the event and will hold more cycle events next year beginning in September.

Our Transition year students got in on the action and also hosted a cycle to Fenit along the new Greenway just next to our school. Hopefully next year, beginning in September, other schools may join us to help promote cycling locally.

Our aim for next year is to further increase the awareness around the benefits of cycling and walking to school. The cycling initiative will be part of a larger initiative around sustainability that we have in mind, we are calling next year's project SUSTOWNABILITY!

We were delighted to win the Senior Transport Category at the Young Environmentalist Awards on 15th May, this is the second year in a row that we have won a top award.

