



Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release
Immediate Release

Local 'Health Promoting Schools' celebrate success

The annual 'Health Promoting School' award ceremony took place on Thursday 22 May 2008 in the Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh. The award, which celebrated its 15th year, is the only initiative of its kind in Northern Ireland. It is coordinated and funded by a well-established partnership between the Health Promotion Department of the Western Health and Social Care Trust, the Western Education and Library Board, and the Western Group Environmental Health Service.

The standard was extremely high this year with 58 nursery, special, primary and post-primary schools receiving this prestigious award. 36 schools received a Gold Award, 17 a Silver Award and 5 a Bronze Award. Alex Baird, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council welcomed the 300 strong audience, which included pupils and teachers from the participating schools plus guests who support the health promoting work of these schools. Local dentist and mountaineer Hannah Shields delivered an inspiring address to the audience about the importance of physical and mental health, before joining the Chairman to present the schools with their awards. Each school received a piece of crystal and a certificate in recognition of their commitment and efforts to becoming a health promoting school.

Lesley Finlay, Health Promotion Officer with the Western Health and Social Care Trust explains: "The aim of the Award is to encourage schools to become health promoting settings in which the whole school community is encouraged to lead a healthier lifestyle. Schools complete a self-audit application before being visited by

the assessment team to determine the standard of health promotion policy and practice within the school.”

Bridie Mullin, adviser with the Western Education and Library Board congratulated all schools on their efforts to improve the quality of health and well-being in their school and the targets they had set for themselves through the self-evaluation process.

Barny Heywood, Group Chief Environmental Health Officer, noted the importance of the award as a means of helping young people understand the many factors that influence health and their own ability to influence these factors as individuals or within their community. He also stressed that, “The ‘Health Promoting School’ award ceremony is a celebration of how all aspects of health and well-being can be addressed within the school setting in an enjoyable, innovative way. The award has evolved and improved over 15 years and credit should be given to the successful schools which have health promotion firmly entrenched within both the curricular and extra-curricular life of the school.”

Schools which received awards in the Derry City Council area are Academy Nursery School (gold), Foyle View School (silver), Greenhaw Primary School (silver), Hollybush Primary School (bronze), Holy Family Primary School and Nursery (gold), Model Primary School (gold), Nazareth House Primary School and Nursery (gold), Newbuildings Primary School (gold), Oakgrove Integrated College (gold), Oakgrove Integrated Primary School (gold), St Anne’s Primary School (gold), St Brigid’s College (gold), St Cecilia’s College (gold), St Columb’s College (gold), St Eugene’s Primary School (gold), St John’s Primary School (gold), St Mary’s College (gold), St

Paul's Primary School (silver), St Therese's Primary School (silver), Trench Road
Primary school (silver).

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