

## Active School Flag - Schools Joint Project

Undertaken by: Herbertstown, Co. Limerick AND Dunboyne SNS, Dunboyne, Co. Meath



### Herbertstown NS, Co. Limerick

For the purposes of our renewal of our Active School Flag, our committee decided to undertake a PE survey in the school. It was then suggested that we seek another school to collaborate with and share the findings of our surveys.

We got in contact with Karen at the Active School Flag headquarters and she put us in touch with Dunboyne Senior Primary School in County Meath. Certainly from our point of view, this was the first step in a hugely valuable and rewarding experience. Under the guidance of Mrs. Caitríona Lordan in Dunboyne, our Active School Flag committee was able to communicate with their counterparts in Meath and distribute a similar questionnaire in both our schools.

Soon as the information was gathered, both sets of committees went to work on tallying the results and created charts and graphs. Once the information was ready, the committees shared their results with each other, along with other information on how they were promoting physical activity in their respective schools. In Herbertstown, the results of our own survey were distributed to parents to help raise awareness of attitudes towards PE/sport among our student body through our Active School Flag newsletter. The committee then used one of the prominent school noticeboards to create a display which showed a comparison between our survey results and the results we received from Dunboyne SPS. It was very interesting to view results from a rural, medium sized school in Limerick side by side with the results of a large, urban school in Meath. Among many similarities, I think it is worth noting that the vast majority of pupils surveyed in both schools said they liked PE/sport, which is an encouraging sight in itself.

Both schools, renewing their Active School status this year, were awarded their 'new' flags within a week of each other in June 2016. Our connection has been very rewarding for both schools and we hope to work together again in the future!

[PUPIL Survey Results](#)

[ASF Power Point Presentation](#)

## **Dunboyne Senior NS, Co. Meath**

Dunboyne Senior Primary School is an Active School(2016 and 2013). We are also a Healthy Ireland Health Promoting School (awarded 2015) and a Green School (awarded 2016). We place a high value on the promotion of Health and Well-being throughout our whole school community. Our engagement with the Active School Flag initiative has been a very rewarding experience for our whole school community. It has encouraged and promoted increased levels of physical activity, self-esteem and self-confidence by providing opportunities for all members of the school community to make a positive contribution to school life.

In 2016 we were invited to participate in a shared model of education where schools work collaboratively to promote positive learning experiences for all pupils. Ms. Karen Cotter, National Co-ordinator Active School Flag, introduced us to Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Herbertstown N.S, Co. Limerick. We were delighted with the opportunity to engage with another school and agreed to carry out a Physical Education survey in conjunction with their school. The purpose of the survey was to find out about our children's attitudes towards Physical Education and to examine how we can improve Physical Education in our schools.

The Children's Committee members distributed the survey materials and the survey was carried out in all classes at the same time. The results were tallied and imputed to Microsoft Excel where the information was tabulated and converted to graphs. Parents in our school mentored and supported the Children's Committee throughout the process. The results of both surveys were prominently displayed on the Active School Flag noticeboard in the school hall.

The Children's Committee communicated regularly with their counterparts in Herbertstown N.S via email. This mode of communication was facilitated and supervised by both teachers. The children enthusiastically compared and contrasted the survey results and enjoyed viewing the Active School Flag powerpoint presentation prepared by the Children's Committee in Herbertstown N.S. It proved to be a very educational and rewarding experience for all the pupils.

It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Fitzgerald and the pupils in Herbertstown N.S. We would be delighted to engage with their school in the future and would highly recommend the shared model of education

[PUPIL Survey Results](#)

[ASF Power Point Presentation](#)