

**PRESS RELEASE 26 April 2024**

**Completion of ‘Safe Route to School Scheme’ at St. Aidan’s Primary School is marked by visit from Minister of State Jack Chambers**

St. Adian’s Primary School Enniscorthy hosted Minister of State, Jack Chambers to mark completion of upgrade works outside the school under the Safe Routes to School Scheme on Monday 22nd April. Minister Chambers took advantage of the sunny weather to discuss the scheme with students and parents outside the school. The students were happy to engage, and an array of bicycles and scooters were on hand to highlight the different modes of transport used to get to school.

Cllr John Fleming, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council hosted the event, attended by Minister of State, James Browne, Paul Kehoe TD, Cllr. John O’Rourke, Cllr. Jackser Owens, Cllr. Barbara-Ann Murphy, Cllr Cathal Byrne & Cllr. Aidan Browne alongside representatives from the NTA, An-Taisce and Green Schools.

Cllr. Fleming thanked the Elected Members and school principal, Frank Murphy for their support of the scheme which ‘has seen installation of footpaths and pedestrian crossings surrounding the school to allow students, parents & buggies walk and wheel to school. Traffic speed outside the school has been reduced and the new pencil bollards have stopped cars parking on footpaths’. Works have also included upgrades to existing junctions at Bohreen Hill and Moran Park to serve peoples travelling from The Moyne and Bellefield where many students of St. Adian’s live.

School Principal, Frank Murphy stressed that the project has child safety as the primary focus will always be the priority of St.Aidans’. Principal Murphy thanked the agencies and design teams involved.

Minister Chambers outlined that the Safe Routes to School Scheme is for the safety of children and parents. He described Wexford County Council as one of the top performers nationally in implementing the scheme having completed Round 1 of Wexford schools. Minister Chambers is also looking forward to Round 2 SRTS projects as part of the €3.75m Active Travel allocation for 2024.

The Safe Routes to School Scheme is a national programme to improve safety at school gates, increase walking and cycling and alleviate congestion in front of schools.

The Active Travel Team in Wexford County Council designed and supervised the project with works completed by appointed contractor H&H Group Ltd.

The project had an initial allocation of €80,000 in 2023. This was increased upon application by Wexford County Council to increase the project scope to €310,000.

ENDS

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