



Old Bawn Community School Scoops Top European Award for Digital Education Practices

Old Bawn Community School is among the first in Ireland to be recognised under new European digital school's award

Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght has become one of the first schools in Europe to achieve European Digital Schools Awards status.

Launched last year, the Digital Schools Awards European programme was created to encourage and recognise innovation, collaboration and skills development in digital technology amongst schools. It is backed by the European Commissions' Erasmus+ programme, national government bodies and leading technology companies led by HP.

Only 90 secondary schools across the continent were selected to take part in the initiative which is being piloted in five European countries namely Ireland, Lithuania, Scotland, Serbia and Slovenia and it is the first of its kind to be available across the continent.

Old Bawn Community School is among first schools in Ireland to receive the award which recognises and celebrates best practice in digital education.

To achieve European Digital Schools status, the Tallaght based school had to demonstrate strong leadership in digital education and provide sufficient access to resources and infrastructure. Their school culture, professional development strategies and teaching practices were also assessed as part of the submission.

The European Digital Schools Awards requires schools to use the European Commission's SELFIE self-reflection tool to assess their digital learning and teaching practices and identified areas where improvements can be made. As part of the programme, teachers were given access to expert support and resources to help them develop their digital curriculum and ensure pupils are given the skills they need to navigate the modern world.

The European Digital Schools Awards programme also intends to open up dialogue across borders and create a growing community of digitally competent schools, where teachers can share learnings from different education systems.

Ursula McCabe, Principal of Old Bawn said: *"To be one of the first schools in Europe to receive this award is such an achievement, and our whole school community is very excited by it.*

"Both our teachers and pupils have worked incredibly hard to develop and embed digital learning into the curriculum. Ensuring that our pupils have access to the equipment, resources and support to develop their skills and literacy in this area has been top of our agenda for some time, but the

European Digital Schools Award programme has given us the momentum to drive forward new strategies.

“The European Digital Schools Award has opened up channels for collaboration, both within our school community and with counterparts in other countries, and we are looking forward to building close working relationships with educational professionals across Europe.

“We are very proud of the achievements of our school. As we have achieved Mentor status with this award, we will continue to share best practices with our friends across the continent. This award was made possible by the outstanding dedication of the staff and students of Old Bawn Community School.”

Anna Doody from Digital Schools Awards said: “We know that schools across Europe have taken great strides in recent years to integrate digital practices into their teaching, and one of the most important and valuable aspects of the European Digital Schools Awards is the ability to network with counterparts in other parts of the world.

“By connecting schools, we hope to bring attention to innovations happening elsewhere in the continent and encourage collaboration by opening more channels for knowledge sharing across borders.”

To find out more, schools are encouraged to visit awards4selfie.eu

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About Digital Schools Awards European Pilot Programme

The [Digital Schools Awards European pilot programme](#) is an initiative to promote and recognise the use of digital technology to deliver the best educational experience for pupils at secondary school level in Europe. The programme links the flourishing Digital Schools Awards initiative with the European SELFIE self-reflection tool and explores how it can make a sustainable impact in schools in Europe.

More than 90 secondary schools across Ireland, Lithuania, Scotland, Serbia and Slovenia are taking part in the pilot which is supported by the European Commission Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by national ministries of education, school support agencies, project management experts and industry partners.