**Wexford C.B.S. receives Cycle Against Suicide**

**‘Ambassador School’ award at Farmleigh House**

- Wexford C.B.S. were honoured for their efforts in promoting positive mental health -

To coincide with World Suicide Prevention Week, Cycle Against Suicide honoured the efforts and achievements of 45 secondary schools from all over Ireland, including Wexford C.B.S. in promoting positive mental health awareness and their dedication in spreading the message, that "it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help".

At a special reception in Dublin’s Farmleigh House, attended by the Department of Education and the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, student representatives of NAME OF SCHOOL were awarded 'Ambassador School' status by Cycle Against Suicide, receiving a special plaque which is set to take pride of place in the school. This award acknowledges their exceptional commitment in the promotion of positive mental health and ultimately, their efforts in breaking the cycle of suicide across Ireland.

Cycle Against Suicide’s ‘Ambassador School’ awards are a key pillar in Cycle Against Suicide’s year-long schools programme. To be in with a chance of being recognised for their schools’ efforts, the school must complete five key sets of criteria, in the promotion of mental health; including getting active, hosting a mental health week and project work. The approach encourages active engagement and participation among student and staff populations within their schools and crucially, in their communities.

Speaking on behalf of Cycle Against Suicide, CEO Paul McBride said “There is immense positivity surrounding our schools programme especially the awards ceremony. The aim of Cycle Against Suicide is the reassurance that it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help. Having 45 schools receiving recognition for spreading this message is fantastic and I applaud their efforts. Students, teachers and principals are making a real difference in promoting open communication and action in their communities, for which they deserve to be immensely proud."

Cycle Against Suicide Schools Co-ordinator, Angeline Collins acknowledged the high levels of interest in the awards, saying; “The huge interest from schools requesting adds to our motivation to continue to recognise innovative and effective initiatives developed by schools and to share and showcase good practice”.

Attendees at the ceremony today in Farmleigh House, included students, teachers, principals as well as members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, members of the Department of Education and representatives of Cycle Against Suicide. In attendance on behalf of Wexford C.B.S. were Ms. Ivers and her group of volunteers.

**-ENDS-**

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