

## PRESS RELEASE

Penarth Management Ltd  
Tel: +44 (0)29 2070 3328  
Fax: +44 (0)29 2070 0013

### Local business helps school go green

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Penarth Management**, one of the largest independent management consultancies in South Wales has helped an Oxfordshire school achieve Silver Flag Eco-School status.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Bicester, Oxfordshire has been working towards achieving Eco-School Status with the help of volunteer Karen McDonald at Penarth Management.

The Eco-Schools programme forms part of the Sustainable Schools Framework, launched by The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in 2006.

Under the international scheme - which has seen 46 countries take part – schools follow set criteria focusing on different environment themes such as biodiversity, energy and water.

The Silver Flag Award is the second of three awards (Bronze, Silver and Green) which schools work towards to gain excellence in environmental study.

Karen McDonald, Management consultant at Penarth Management said: "The programme encourages schools to take a holistic view, focussing on a wide range of topics. It encourages children to learn about biodiversity issues from a global and local perspective."

Head Teacher Patricia Pickering agrees. She said: "We are very keen to set an example about sustainability and how to care for our environment in the long term.

"As a school community, we are delighted to have gained the Silver Flag award and we are now working towards achieving the Green Flag award."

Karen, whose children also attend the school, forged the link between Penarth Management and St Mary's because of her passion for the environment.

Since the project began – and with Karen's help - pupils and staff at St Mary's have introduced many eco-schemes such as using a compost bin for fruit waste, mapping safe walking routes to the school and conserving water using a water butt, which was donated by Penarth Management.

Eco Co-ordinator at St Mary's, Eileen Leigh said: "Karen has used her experience of working with big companies to help us focus on specific, achievable targets. The water butt Penarth Management provided will really aid us in our work towards the Green Flag award."

She continued: "Karen's input has meant a lot to the staff and children at the school. We are thinking a lot more about our carbon footprints and there is more awareness among the pupils of

the need to switch off lights and to keep doors and windows shut in cold weather. We are also building links with the wider community such as sending unused work books to a school in South Africa.”

Jodie Read, Managing Director at Penarth Management said: “It’s been a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved. Karen McDonald has applied her own practical environmental knowledge to assist the school in attain their Silver Flag Award.”

She added: “We look forward to continuing to support St Mary’s in achieving the Green Flag Award in the near future.”

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Note to editors:

- The eco-schools programme is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- It is one of the largest sustainable schools programmes in the world
- Eco-schools website: [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)
- St Mary’s website: <http://www.st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk/>

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**Penarth Management** is one of the largest independent management consultancy firms in South Wales. Established in 1975, Penarth Management specialises in the provision of compliance consultancy and training for quality, environmental, health and safety management. Penarth Management prides itself in providing on-going personalised specialist resources to a wide variety of clients.

Website: [www.penarth.co.uk](http://www.penarth.co.uk)