



The Port Monster

Background

In August 2007, 4 local schools were invited to participate in a Tour of the Port of Belfast. The focus of the Tour was to highlight the importance of the Port's maritime heritage and the Port's commitment to its environment.



The schools were St Clare's PS, Strandtown PS, Holy Family PS and Grove PS. The Voyage of Discovery allowed the children to see the site where the Titanic was built, the R.S.P.B. Bird Sanctuary, the Port's Seal colony, the scrap metal recycling facility, the Harland & Wolff cranes and

countless visiting ships docking in the Port. The children were also told the tale of the Port Monster: a creature that lives in the Port and acts as its environmental champion – eating the waste and scaring those who would act irresponsibly.



To wrap up the experience, the children were tasked to write a story about the Monster or to name and draw him. The feedback from the schools and the quality of the work presented was phenomenal!



The messages and themes outlined by the children were directly aligned to the work being undertaken by the Port to become more environmentally focussed. In fact, the messages were so strong that the Port decided to follow the advice of the Children in how it implemented its environmental policy.



The Creation of Webster

- Webster the Port Monster evolved from the pictures and stories created by the collective efforts of the children.
- Webster is a good monster who drinks the oil spills, keeps the Port tidy and looks after the wildlife in the Port such as his friend Sammy the Seal.
- His message is simple

'Think Green, recycle and be responsible'

Webster's environmental adventures will be captured in a comic strip, which is again based on the stories written by the schoolchildren. The comic strip will feature the animals and landmarks of the Port.

Educational Programme

The Port has been 'buoyed' by the success of the Port Tour and the levels of interest shown by the participating schools. 'Webster the Port Monster' will become an integral part of communicating the Port's commitment to its environmental policy to schools. The Green agenda championed by Webster will form the basis of future educational/historical projects. One of the projects currently underway is the creation of a Schools Portal connected to the Port's website. Webster, his adventures, his key messages and Tips for the Family will be key features of the site.



Corporate Responsibility

The Port of Belfast has identified 'The Environment' as its central theme for its 2008 Corporate Responsibility Programme. The multi-layered Programme includes projects aimed at NI schools, providing access to the Arts for Special Needs Schools, support for Community Projects and facilitation of charity events.

