

Dear Principal,

November 2013

**“Stop Internal Flooding”**

We wish to invite your school to participate in Northern Ireland Water’s (NI Water) Annual Schools Competition.

Marine litter is a global problem which poses a threat to the marine environment and has socio-economic impacts. Behavioural changes towards the disposal of litter can reduce the quantities of litter dropped by the public, the amount of sewage related debris and also industrial waste entering the marine environment. There is a need to educate the public to the appropriate disposal of litter thus helping to safeguard the environment for future generations.

NI Water is working in conjunction with Consumer Council NI, Tidy NI, NI Housing Executive, Marine Conservation Society, Department for Regional Development, Department of the Environment and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to reinforce this important message as part of the implementation of the Marine Litter Strategy.

The competition will focus on designing a poster to advise how to “Stop Internal Flooding”. Internal flooding can be caused by blocked pipes as a result of flushing inappropriate items and by pouring fat, oil and grease down the sink, or frozen pipes that burst in the kitchen /bathroom.

The Department for Regional Development (DRD) is also developing a draft Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland which will examine Drinking Water, Flood Risk Management, Water and Sewerage Services and Environmental Protection.

In addition to designing a poster each entrant is required to answer 5 questions on water related issues. The responses will be used to help inform government policy for the Long Term Water Strategy.

The competition is open to KS2 pupils in all primary schools in Northern Ireland, with a category for Special Needs Schools.

**Prize money for the winning schools in each age category, P5, P6 and P7:**

**First prize- £400**

**Second prize- £200**

**Third place- £100**

**Each winning pupil receives a “stakeholder goody bag” and certificate**

Further information and details of how to enter, are provided on the attached sheet – ‘Stop Internal Flooding Competition Guidelines – Instructions for Teachers’

**The entry deadline is Friday 28th March 2014.**

We look forward to receiving your school’s entries.

Yours faithfully,



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