



New Defibrillator for St. Paul's - (Published by The Forum)

A lifesaving cardiac defibrillator was delivered to St Paul's NS in Ratoath today. The device was earned by the school as part of their mobile phone recycling drive, in cooperation with Irish Autism Action.

The school collected more than 400 used mobile phones during the first half of 2013 for Irish Autism Action, earning them the defibrillator for emergency use in the school. Autism Action's mobile phone recycling programme, which is facilitated by Irish company Swapkit, provides rewards for schools, community groups, or individual families who organise mobile phone collection drives.

The majority of the awards provided under the scheme are iPads, which are particularly useful for encouraging communication in people with Autism, but the programme also offers laptops, interactive white boards, first aid kits, defibrillators, class room projectors and a number of other teaching aids.

Since the scheme began just over two years ago, Irish Autism Action has raised more than €250,000 for its charitable work and more than 2,000 iPads have been donated to schools and children affected with various learning difficulties.

St Paul's is one of the only schools in the area to have a dedicated Autism Unit within the school, catering for 12 pupils.

Principal Morag McGowan, along with Martina Cahill of the Parents' Association who organised the drive, thanked Irish Autism Action for the defibrillator, and recognised the many students in the school who contributed to the drive.

St Paul's NS is the first school in the country to earn a defibrillator through the Irish Autism Action programme, having donated more than 400 phones to the charity.

Representatives from Swapkit and Pharmed Group, who distribute the defibrillator, were also in attendance.

St. Paul's would also like to give a special thank you to Teacher Siobhan Kennedy who instigated the programme to collect mobile phones in the school and to one of our parents Martina Cahill for liaising with Irish Autism Action to help us achieve our goal.

