

23 August 2008

## Bank of Ireland Sponsors Sunshine Coach to Help Enrich the Lives of Special Youngsters

Youngsters at West SILC (Specialist Inclusive Centre) in Stanningley Leeds are looking forward to lots of outings in their new Variety Club Children's Charity Sunshine Coach, which was presented to the school by Bank of Ireland.

The specialist inclusive learning centre caters for 138 pupils (aged between two and 19) who have severe and complex learning difficulties.

The 17 seater coach, which has a tail-lift, will offer the youngsters (19 of whom are wheelchair users) the opportunity to visit community facilities enabling them to enrich their curriculum.

Len Cohen, a member of the Yorkshire Region of the Variety Club Children's Charity, explained; "Bank of Ireland has been the main sponsor of our Residential Property Awards for the past two years and part of the money raised at this year's event was used to purchase the coach."

Since it was launched in 1962, the Variety Club Sunshine Coach Programme has led to the donation of nearly 5000 minibuses to schools with disabled and disadvantaged pupils, children's hospitals, hospices and other organisations.

Lee Hayes, Associate Director at Bank of Ireland, said: "To see the excitement of the youngsters when the coach arrived was very touching. We are delighted to have been able to make a positive difference to the school and help to make the children's lives easier."

"We are absolutely thrilled with the coach,' said Michelle Wilman, principal of West SILC. "Up till now we have only had the use of buses without wheelchair facilities, unless we borrow one and are extremely grateful to the Bank of Ireland for their generosity and the Variety Club for their ongoing support."

To find out more about the work of the Variety Club visit [www.varietyclub.org.uk/yorkshire](http://www.varietyclub.org.uk/yorkshire)

#### Legal Information

Bank of Ireland – incorporated in Ireland with limited liability.  
Authorised by the Irish Financial Regulator and authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Services Authority.  
Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Financial Services Authority are available from us on request.

#### Registered Information

Registered No. C-1.  
Head Office, Lower Baggot  
Street, Dublin 2.

For further press details please contact Diana White at Diana White & Associates on 0113 232 9555.

## ENDS

### For further information, please contact:

Sandra Grandison	Bank of Ireland	+44 (0)207 634 3477
Julie Sherlock	Bank of Ireland	+44 (0)28 90433520

### Notes to Editors

**Bank of Ireland UK Financial Services (UKFS)** combines the sterling denominated businesses within the Bank of Ireland Group, incorporating Business Banking, Personal Lending and Consumer Financial Services, representing joint ventures with the UK Post Office. The Bank of Ireland in Northern Ireland, part of Business Banking, is a leading player in both personal financial services and in corporate and business banking.

Bank of Ireland UKFS operates its businesses out of London, Belfast, Bristol and Reading with a workforce of approximately 3,600 staff. The division generates in excess of £352m profits before tax, similar to companies listed in the FTSE top 70, with annual growth over 18% achieved. UKFS manages about £45bn of quality customer loans and over £16bn of customer deposits with strong growth demonstrated within each book. Customer numbers with the Post Office relationship have reached almost 1.5 million in four years and continue to grow strongly.

### Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK

Financial results to 31 March 2008 show another full year of growth across the board for Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK. As one of the fastest growing business banks in the UK, its profit before tax is up 21%; its loan book has increased by 27% to £16.6bn and its resources by 12% to £12.8bn.

Bank of Ireland Business Banking UK offers tailored banking services and financing solutions of between £1m and £200m to companies of all sizes and across all sectors. Recruiting the best business bankers in the UK is core to its growth strategy, and it has particular strength in the provision of finance to businesses in the property, healthcare and hotel sectors.

Bank of Ireland has an extensive business banking network across the UK and has dedicated, specialist regional teams in London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Reading and Thames Valley, Bristol, Belfast, Glasgow and Edinburgh. It offers a full range of business banking services, including commercial lending, interest rate management, foreign exchange, debtor finance and asset finance. As well as offering its clients a relationship-driven service, Bank of Ireland prides itself on its flexible financing solutions, its fast decision making process and its competitive terms.

#### Legal Information

Bank of Ireland – incorporated in Ireland with limited liability. Authorised by the Irish Financial Regulator and authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Services Authority. Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Financial Services Authority are available from us on request.

#### Registered Information

Registered No. C-1.  
Head Office, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.