



Plastic is a really useful product but the problem is that most of it isn't biodegradable. It doesn't rot and it can hang around in the environment for hundreds of years. This is bad enough when it is in a landfill site, but much worse when it is left as litter or ends up in the sea.

Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced. Around 40% of that is single use – used once, often for only a few minutes, and then thrown away. Whilst some of our plastic can be recycled – bottles and food containers can go in our blue bins – many plastics can't be recycled and lots end up as litter. 'Plastic Smart' is asking us all to avoid single use plastics whenever we can.

We believe we can all play a role in reducing single use plastic and in particular your school can be central to this by participating in 'Plastic Smart'. Completing the 5 'Plastic Smart' steps will result in you being awarded a 'Plastic Smart' sticker and will entitle you to use the logo on your headed paper, website or any communications. We can support your efforts at every stage.

Objective 1: Local Governance

We ask that your school discuss the 'Plastic Smart' campaign at a meeting – maybe an Eco Schools or School Council meeting – and agree to support the ideals, commit to finding plastic free alternatives and organise plastic free events and activities. We appreciate it may be impossible to become plastic free overnight, but by discussing this at your meeting you are indicating an aspiration to work towards becoming 'Plastic Smart'.

Please choose at least 3 aims of those listed in the Policy, have your Principal and a pupil (Chair of Eco Schools Committee or School Council) sign this and return it to: recycle@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Objective 2: Local Schools

We would like you to work with or encourage other local schools to reduce their reliance on plastic and single use plastics in particular.

You could ban plastic straws in school and stop using them when you are in a café or encourage the use of re-usable water bottles rather than disposables.

Objective 3: Plastic Free Allies

Every school has a community made up of pupils, teachers, staff and families. We would like you to identify at least 3 groups in the community, voluntary, church or school sectors that you in turn can encourage to embrace some element of 'Plastic Smart'.

We would encourage you, where possible to organise a litter lift in your area.

Objective 4: Single Use Plastics

We are encouraging all participating schools to focus on reducing single use plastics including:

- Water bottles (encourage reusable bottles instead)
- Disposable coffee cups (ask staff to use a 'keep cup')
- Straws
- Small plastic milk bottles (big milk bottles and reusable cups are good)
- Condiment sachets such as sauce or vinegar (big bottles are good)
- Disposable wipes (use a cloth)
- Bags (go for reusable)
- Cling film or plastic wrap (use a lunch box instead)

We ask you to sign up to at least **3 aims on your Policy**. Please [email](#) us for Word documents which you amend for your school.

Objective 5: Publicise your efforts

We would encourage you to use every opportunity to publicise what you are doing. This could be in conjunction with local media, using your own social media options (website, Parent Mail, See Saw) or school newsletter.

We thank you for your support in helping to create a 'Plastic Smart' Borough. We really want to know how you are getting on so please let us know!

For more information please follow, visit, email or phone:

@CausewayCouncil #PlasticSmart

www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/recycle

recycle@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

028 2766 0248



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[insert name] School is working hard to become 'Plastic Smart' and avoid single use plastics. We will: (choose at least 3 actions)

- ban plastic straws
- encourage pupils and staff to use re-fillable water bottles
- avoid plastic bags
- avoid using plastic wrap and cling film
- avoid disposable coffee cups
- use cloths instead of disposable wipes
- avoid using small milk bottles

Please [email us](#) for Word documents that you can amend for your school.

Signed (principal)

Signed (pupil)

Date

@CausewayCouncil www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/recycle

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