



7-11



Litter check

Is litter a problem in your school? Where does it come from? Some people think it is okay to drop litter - they throw empty crisp packets, chocolate wrappers or drinks cans on the floor when they have finished with them.

Use this worksheet as a guide to reducing litter in your school – tick the suggestions that your school is doing already.

What you need

- Litter picking equipment – tongs, gloves, rubbish sacks.
- Magnets – to determine metal type. Magnets can be ordered from the ‘what you can do’ section in the householder area.
- Rubbish bins.
- Separate bins for rubbish that can be recycled.



What to do

- Look at the litter in your school – how much is there? What is it e.g. crisp packets, drinks cans? Which parts of the school have the most litter?
- Interview other pupils – do certain people drop more litter than others? What are peoples reasons for littering? Refer to the ‘Primary activities’ section for a ‘school litter survey’.



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Discussion

- How does litter make you feel?
- Can you think of some reasons why it is wrong to drop litter?
- Have you got a rubbish/litter monitor? If not, decide who would be the best person to do this.
- Set up a 'rubbish committee' made up of pupils, teachers, parents and the rubbish monitor.
- Decide a school litter reduction policy with the rubbish committee.
- Focus on key areas to stop litter – are snack wrappers a problem at breaktimes? If they are, what could you do to stop this? Maybe you could ask your school canteen to sell snacks like toast at breaktime which means no wrappers.
- Ask the whole school for ideas on stopping litter. You could turn this into a competition.
- Ask the school to provide prizes for litter collections (e.g. tuckshop vouchers).
- Set up 'recycling stations' with separate containers for each material e.g. glass, plastic, paper and metals.
- Organise rubbish/litter collections, with each class taking it in turns. Refer to the 'Primary activities' section for a certificate for the 'best litter collection'.



Rubbish bins

- Make sure there are enough bins in your school – especially in areas which have lots of litter e.g. near tuckshops.
- Make sure bins are emptied every day and they have lids so litter doesn't blow out of them.
- Provide separate bins for rubbish that can be recycled, e.g. aluminium bins for drinks cans.
- Make sure pupils know why it is important to separate materials for recycling and what happens to the rubbish and recyclables.
- Create a composting area for food scraps. See the householder section for advice on composting.