



Top 10 Tips for Reducing Plastic Waste in Schools

1. Organise workshops, educational talks, assemblies, or film screenings

This will help to raise awareness of the issue and generate interest among staff and students. Why not book our Waste Educators to come to the school and talk to students. Look at what we offer on our [webpage](#).

2. Arrange a local park, beach, school, or river clean

This gives students an opportunity to understand how the issue is affecting them locally. Have a look at our [Schools Litter Pick Pack](#).

3. Reduce the sale of plastic covered snacks and drinks

This can include breakfast and after school clubs, tuck shops and the canteen meals and snacks. Work with the catering team to find suitable alternatives such as fresh fruit and veg, boxes of dried fruits, snacks bought in bulk etc.

4. Promote zero waste lunches

Encourage families to avoid single-use packaging in packed lunches. Have a look on our [webpage](#) for some inspiration. Additionally, conducting a packed lunch waste audit with students has shown to reduce total amount all waste.

5. Create opportunities to use and promote reusable items

For example, buying durable products, borrowing, and donating items for events and lessons and promoting reusable water bottles. Additionally, could your school introduce more water fountains or increase the promotion for existing ones. Have a look at the Tap Water Award on our [funding page](#) to see if your school qualifies for a grant.

6. Request plastic free deliveries from suppliers

If this is not yet an option with your supplier, raise the issue with them because this could have an even larger affect.





7.Rethink catering options

Talking to the kitchen staff for example, can they serve yogurt from a large pot into small washable bowls, instead of individual throw-away plastic pots? Other examples include cutting out straws and using reusable cutlery.

8.Ditch the laminator and use plastic free displays

This is a quick and easy change that can have lasting impacts and will cost you nothing!

9.Create a Plastic Pioneers or Eco Committee

Having a student committee championing against plastic pollution can help to reduce each class's total waste. They can also help with things like packed lunch waste audits.

10.Share successes with other schools and the wider school community

Once you have found what works for your school, share your tips and successes with other schools to help them reduce their own single-use plastic waste! Why not have a look at some examples on our [webpage](#).





Top 10 Tips for Reducing Food Waste in Schools

1. Start a conversation with your catering team

This is incredibly important as a first step to get the views of those directly involved in food waste, particularly as they have a great insight and may have their own ideas that are particularly relevant to the school and local area.

2. Organise workshops, educational talks, assemblies, or film screenings

This will help to firstly raise awareness of the issue and generate interest among staff and students. Look at the workshops we offer on [webpage](#) and at our food waste resources on our [activity finder](#).

3. Create an Eco Committee

Having a student committee championing against food waste can help to reduce each class's total waste. This committee should aim to directly involve the catering team and could help with things like packed lunch waste audits and composting.

4. Conduct a packed lunch food waste audit

This gives students an opportunity to understand how the issue is affecting their school and can give them a sense of ownership. Have a look at our webpage for guidance on [conducting a food audit](#).

5. Allow for pre-ordering of lunch meals

If your school is not already doing this, it can be an easy way to reduce waste by preparing meals to order rather than in large amounts.

6. Weigh plate scraping and unserved foods to give better lunch options

Work with the staff to weigh plate scrapings and unserved food can give an idea of items children are not eating. This does not necessarily mean only serve the unhealthy food children want but serving less of the items they do not eat whilst retaining healthy options.





7. Carry out a pupil survey

Conduct a pupil survey and consult with lunchtime supervisors to find out why pupils are throwing away food rather than eating it. For example, are they rushing their lunch to attend clubs or play with friends; do they dislike the noisy dining hall; are there some items on the menu that are less popular than others?

8. Monitor the consumption of free fruit

Younger pupils may eat more of their fruit inside with adult supervision (e.g., listening to a story) than running around at playtime, so consider whether changes to your routine could reduce fruit waste.

9. Involve students more in their lunches

Students who are involved in making their food choices, are more likely to eat the food served to them. This can include growing foods, menu tasting, cooking classes and lessons on specific foods.

10. Share successes with other schools and the wider school community

Once you have found what works for your school, share your tips and successes with other schools to help them reduce their own food waste! Why not have a look at some examples on our [webpage](#).





Top 10 tips for Reducing Paper Waste in Schools

1. Organise workshops, educational talks, assemblies, or film screenings

This will help to firstly raise awareness of the issue and generate interest among staff and students. Why not book our Waste Educators to come to the school and talk to students. Look at the workshops we offer on [webpage](#) and at our paper waste resources on our [activity finder](#).

2. Change the way your school prints

Set the printer to automatically print double sided, promote smaller fonts (whilst retaining accessibility) and ask whether it can be done digitally.

3. Create e-newsletters and digital forms rather than sending home letters

This can also help to save time and costs as well as making it easier to keep personal information secure.

4. If paper forms are necessary, create a siblings list

This will ensure forms only go to one individual in a family, and many schools are already doing this.

5. Use chalkboards/whiteboards over paper where possible

This can also be engaging and interactive for pupils as well as allowing them to make mistakes without worrying.

6. Put in place a printing quota for staff

This can help to reduce unnecessary printing and will make people think twice before printing.





7. Create scrap and recycled paper drawers

This is useful for both arts and crafts and reducing paper waste.

8. Move to more online learning and homework

Upload lesson plans, activities and other materials online instead of printing instructional materials this can also help to develop students' digital skills.

9. Create an Eco Committee

Having a student committee championing against paper waste can help to reduce each class's total waste as well as monitoring if paper is being recycled. Have a look at some of the [group activities](#) you can do to monitor and reduce waste. Why not go one step further and look at becoming an [Eco School!](#)

10. Share successes with other schools and the wider school community

Once you have found what works for your school, share your tips and successes with other schools to help them reduce their own paper waste. Why not have a look at some examples on our [webpage](#).

