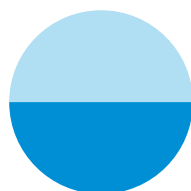


Primary Teachers Toolkit

Plastic Clever Schools



Common
Seas

KIDS
against
PLASTIC

Contents

2	Introduction
3	Plastic Clever Schools
4	Becoming Plastic Clever - For pupils and for teachers
5	Becoming Plastic Clever - Achieving your school award

Level 1 - Inspire

6	Introduction and pupil workbook links
7	Supporting your pupils
8	Engaging staff, parents and your wider community
9	Curriculum resources from Ocean Plastics Academy

Level 2 - Investigate

10	Introduction and pupil workbook links
11	Supporting your pupils
12	Engaging staff, parents and your wider community
13	Curriculum resources from Ocean Plastics Academy

Level 3 - Act

14	Introduction and pupil workbook links
15	Supporting your pupils
16	Engaging staff, parents and your wider community
17	Curriculum resources from Ocean Plastics Academy

18	About us
19	FAQ's

Hello from Common Seas!

We want to support educators in inspiring and equipping young people to solve the marine plastic challenge, while helping their schools and local environment to become plastic-waste free.

We created Ocean Plastics Academy because to solve a problem, you first need to understand it. Our Curriculum Resources help young people experience the wonders of our ocean, while learning about the complex problem of plastic pollution. Now, we've teamed up with the brilliant Kids Against Plastic to launch Plastic Clever Schools, an exciting school award to help you and your pupils wave goodbye to single-use plastics. Plastic Clever Schools turns literacy into action, empowering young people to lead a plastic waste revolution in their classroom and beyond. We'll explain how it all works over the next few pages so, for now, thank you and welcome aboard!



Since it became popular in the 1950s, plastic has changed our world.

Cheap, durable and adaptable, it clothes us, keeps our food fresh, saves lives through improved hygiene and has even taken us to space! But our relationship with plastic is getting out of hand. The very properties that make it so useful also make it a pervasive environmental and social issue that affects ocean, human and economic health.

[Click to find out more
about plastic pollution](#)



A Plastic Clever School is one where young people are leading action to reduce single-use plastics, with the support of their teachers, school leaders and wider community.

It doesn't need to be 'plastic-free', but everyone should be working together to reduce as much plastic waste as possible (we recommend starting with two items). Through this process, Plastic Clever Schools turns plastic literacy into action, inspiring school-wide campaigns that provide real-world experience to make learning about plastics meaningful, hands-on and fun!

The journey will be different for every school and so we've created a diverse collection of resources that will help along the way.

Each level requires evidence to show how pupils are working towards making your school plastic clever.

You can register your school online and submit all your evidence via the Plastic Clever Schools online platform.

[Click to register here](#)

There are three levels for pupils to complete -



Inspire They'll go on a deep dive to learn all about plastic and share that information with classmates, teachers, parents and community.



Investigate It's time to discover the problem plastics in your school and get ready to do something about it!



Act They'll learn how to create positive impact in your community and lead an exciting campaign to help your school and community wave goodbye to single-use plastic.

Becoming Plastic Clever

For Pupils

Your pupils should be leading the way on this journey.

Make sure they have access to our interactive pupil workbook to guide them through the process. It has lots of useful information & links to worksheets to dive deeper on specific subjects, as well as some helpful tips and advice from Amy, Ella, the founders of Kids Against Plastic, and other young people, including the Kids Against Plastic Club members.



This symbol will guide you to specific resources for your pupils

For teachers

Becoming Plastic Clever is a whole school endeavor.

Your pupils will need your support and encouragement every step of the way. This Toolkit outlines the key elements of the programme as well as identifying the best way for you to support your pupils and engage staff, parents and your wider community. We've also included the resources needed to embed learning about plastics within the school curriculum. Your role is to ensure your pupils are enabled to lead change on plastics and to help create a lasting impact as a Plastic Clever School.

We hope you find everything you need to make that possible within these pages!



Rally the troops!

If you're the instigator behind becoming Plastic Clever, you may be looking for some keen young people to lead the way.

Consider working with a school group, such as an eco team, club, or specific class to get things going. If you've been recruited by an eager young person to support their school action, help them grow their team.

If your eco team is already working hard on other environmental activities, and clubs have a busy schedule mapped out, consider creating a new Plastic Clever team specifically dedicated to issues relating to single use plastic.

Ideally, the team should be representative of the wider pupil body, with one or more members included from every year group. These representatives will be able to share messaging, inspire participation, and consult on solutions with their peers.

Eco Schools has excellent guidance for setting up an eco team available on their website [here](https://www.ecoschools.co.uk/).



Remember to upload your evidence during each level to achieve your Plastic Clever School award -



Level 1

- Raise awareness about your mission to become a Plastic Clever School
- Host a litter pick at your school
- Make a video to share why you're excited about becoming a Plastic Clever School



Level 2

- Complete the Plastic Clever Schools audit
- Create your action plan



Level 3

- Run your campaign to tackle at least 2 problem plastics in your school
- Share photo evidence
- Create a celebration video

Introduction to level one -

INSPIRE is a deep dive to learn all about plastic and share that information with classmates, teachers, parents and the school community.

Your pupils will learn about where plastic products come from, different types of plastic and why it's so important to become Plastic Clever! They'll organise a litter pick to find out how plastic pollution is impacting your local environment, plus they'll create a space to help your whole school get engaged and up to date on your Plastic Clever journey. Your pupils will share their mission with the Plastic Clever Schools community and find some creative ways to inspire their classmates along the way!

To complete this level your pupils will need to -

- Raise awareness about their mission to become a Plastic Clever School
- Host a litter pick at your school
- Make a video to share why they're excited to become a Plastic Clever School

Pupil workbook resources -



Assembly / presentation



How plastic is made



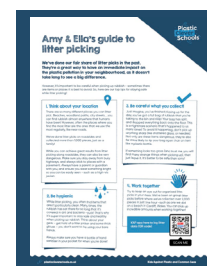
Lifecycle of a plastic bottle



Different types of plastic



Recycling guide



Litter pick guide



Designing your Plastic Clever Schools wall

Raise awareness

Enable pupils to host an assembly or presentation

An assembly or workshop is a great way to reach out to the whole pupil body and generate interest and excitement. It can be delivered by staff or pupils (or delivering together is always fun!) and you can even invite other staff, parents, and carers to join in – reaching the whole community at once.

[Download the assembly here](#)

Ensure pupils have somewhere to create their Plastic Clever Schools wall

Can you find a good, central location in the school? Somewhere that has lots of footfall and where your pupils can easily update the wall

[Check out page 9 in the pupil workbook for more info](#)

Help identify key stakeholders

Who do your pupils need to be onboard and motivate? Once you know who you need to inspire, you can decide on the level of engagement you would like to have with them.

Host a litter pick

Support with the logistics of organising the litter pick

Your pupils will need you to supervise the event and may need some help gathering everything they need (bags, gloves, litter pickers etc). If they are planning to run a bigger clean up, perhaps inviting parents/carers & community members to join, then you may be able to support by extending invitations, helping with timings and carrying out a risk assessment with them.

Become citizen scientists by logging your litter pick data in the Kids Against Plastic app!

Helpful hint:

Ocean Plastics Lesson 4 is all about planning a litter pick in your local environment. [Click here to access it.](#)

[Check out page 8 in the pupil workbook for more info](#)



SCAN ME

Make a video

Help your pupils create a video about why they want to make your school Plastic Clever

Brainstorm what to include in the video by asking why this issue feels so important to them, what impact they think they can have in your school and in your local community. If you are concerned about including pupils in the video, why not help them create a montage of photos and add a voiceover instead?

[Check out page 10 in the pupil workbook for more info](#)

Engaging staff, parents and your wider community

Introduce the Ocean Plastics Academy

To solve a problem, we first need to understand it. We've Created everything you and your team need to bring learning about plastics to the curriculum.

Ocean Plastics Academy teaches young people about plastic – where it comes from, what it does, where it goes, and what they can do about it – to create a generation dedicated to solving the plastic pollution crisis.

All of our learning resources are aligned to the national curriculum, are easy to access and free to use.

The full suite of primary resource can be found on the Ocean Plastics Academy platform.



[Click to access Ocean Plastics Academy](#)

Show how Ocean Plastics Academy and becoming a Plastic Clever School aligns with the SDGs

Common Seas has worked with partners to create a set of universal Ocean Plastics Learning Objectives, utilising the frameworks developed by UNESCO and those working for Ocean Literacy.

[Click to access Ocean Plastics Learning Objectives](#)



The Act on Plastic staff meeting slideshow can be used to introduce the plastic pollution crisis and explain how the stages of this toolkit will empower the school community to take positive action.

[Download the slideshow here](#)

Invite speakers from environmental organisations to present to stakeholders and pupils

Why not get in touch with us to see if we can help? You can email us at hello@commonseas.com

Alternatively, is there a parent or local organisation who might be interested in coming into school to share more about their work? Having someone speak at school might be the first step in building a collaborative project.

Curriculum resources from Ocean Plastics Academy

Ocean Plastics cross-curricular learning resources Lessons 1 – 4 introduce plastic and all its properties so that your pupils can develop their own understanding about what makes plastic fantastic, and what makes it a big problem that we all need to tackle. Each resource is ready to deliver with a lesson plan, activity guidance or sheets, and a PowerPoint presentation included.

1. What are Plastics Pt 1

Investigate properties of materials to understand why plastic is so widely used.



2. What are Plastics Pt 2

Discover the 7 types of plastic and explore the science of polymerisation by making slime!



3. Where are plastics Pt 1

Follow the lifecycle of a plastic bottle and take part in a debate. Is plastic fantastic?



4. Where are Plastics Pt 2

Find out how plastic in the ocean can travel the world and the problems this can cause. Then, plan your own fieldwork to investigate plastic litter in your local environment.



Congratulations!
You've reached the end
of Level 1

Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

Upload here

Level 2 - Investigate

Introduction to level two -

INVESTIGATE will help you and your pupils discover the problem plastics in your school and get ready to do something about it!

Your pupils will learn about how plastic gets into the ocean, and the impact that plastic pollution has on us, our communities and our natural environment. They'll also learn about the 6Rs and start to think of ways to reduce plastic waste..

Together, you and your pupils will investigate problem plastics in your school using our plastic waste audit. You can then pick the top two plastic items to tackle so your pupils can create an action plan! They'll share what they found out and what they want to do about it.

To complete this stage
your pupils will need to -



Complete the Plastic Clever
Schools audit



Create an action plan

Pupil workbook resources -



Impact on
Wildlife



Plastic
pollution facts



5 Gyres



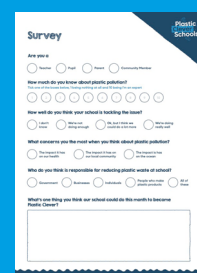
Audit



6 R's



Action Plan



Survey

Complete the Plastic Clever Schools audit

Work with a team of pupils to complete the plastic waste audit

The audit will help identify single-use plastics in different areas across the schools such as canteens, classrooms and bathrooms. Some of the required data will be readily available and pupils will be able to complete the questions just by looking around the site. Others may need input from other staff members such as the head of catering, school business managers or senior leaders.

Encourage pupils to seek out information from members of staff, investigate waste management facilities across site and collect data from order sheets to build their confidence as leaders. There are plenty of tips on how to collect data included in the audit tool too.

Your pupils will be useful sources of knowledge around the use of single-use plastics at school, and could be encouraged to carry out further investigations of waste streams that are currently not well understood, for example, plastic waste generated from packed lunches.

[Download audit instructions & template here](#)

Create an action plan

Results and Action Planning

Support your pupils to understand the results of the audit and consider which plastic items they want to tackle. Which items will have the biggest impact if they are reduced? What other factors do they need to consider... Cost to the school? Time to implement?

The pupil toolkit contains [information about the 6Rs](#) to help them think of the best solutions for your school. They may need help to understand the [different reduction strategies](#) and apply them to actions they/the school can take.



Help distribute the social survey

The social survey is a great way to understand current perceptions and attitudes towards plastic waste and amplify pupil voice. It can be shared via the school website, social media channels or newsletter. Getting lots of people actively involved during this stage will make pupil led campaigns more meaningful later on. Make sure you complete it too!

Increase ocean literacy

Set the scene for learning about ocean plastics and introduce pupils to the awe and wonder of the ocean with the cross-curricular Ocean Plastics Academy Oceans for Beginners units. By learning about the marine habitat, its diversity of life and the ways we depend on it, pupils can begin developing a love for the ocean and a desire to protect it. No matter where we are, we are all connected to the ocean and have a responsibility to protect it.



[Each age specific unit can be accessed here](#)

Engaging staff, parents and your wider community



Share the results of your audit

Share the results of the audit far and wide. If your school has social media or a blog, help your pupils use these channels to communicate results. We've created a few tiles you can use to add an image to your message. As well as the wider community, make sure the school leadership team (SLT) are also aware of the results. Set up a meeting with school leaders and your pupils so they can present the results and start a conversation about what they want to do about it.

Make sure you tag @CommonSeas @KidsAgainstPlastic and use the hashtag #PlasticCleverSchools



Communication Pack can be accessed here

Share the action plan

Once your pupils have created their action plan, share it with SLT and stakeholders. Perhaps you could also ensure it goes out in the school newsletter. Your pupils will need everyone on board for their campaigns to be a success!

Host a movie night

A great way to engage the wider community is to host an ocean themed movie night. There are lots of great documentaries about ocean plastics that will help inspire and educate.

Don't forget our home learning resources

Share our free home-school resources as part of your engagement activity.

We have a 12-part series of activities to help families explore the plastics issue and take action at home. From turning a plastic bottle into a bird feeder to making slime, the activities are fun and easy-to-use.



Access the activities here

Host a coffee morning for parents/carers

Work with pupils to host a coffee morning where parents can find out more about the Plastic Clever Schools process, ask questions and share ideas. Consider inviting a local environment group or borough waste officer to share stories and information. You could even organise a plastics themed story session, a trip to local recycling centre or a performance by pupils to really get families engaged.

Ocean Plastics Lesson 5 & 6

No matter where we are in the world, the plastic we use can cause a lot of problems if it finds its way into the ocean. These lessons will help your pupils learn more about the impact of plastic waste on marine life, and to consider how people might be affected by plastic production, consumption and pollution too.

5. What impact can plastics have Pt 1

Discover how plastic pollution in the ocean can cause trouble for marine life by learning about the food chains of some amazing sea creatures.



6. What impact can plastics have Pt 2

Step into the shoes of people around the world to find out how plastics can impact humans and the planet.



Congratulations!
You've reached the end
of Level 2

Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

Upload here

Introduction to level three -

The **ACT** level is a chance for your pupils to create a positive impact through exciting campaigns to help your school and community wave goodbye to single-use plastic.

Your pupils will find out how they can make a difference, taking inspiration from some incredible organisations around the world.

They'll use their action plan to build campaigns to tackle at least two of the problem plastics in your school, and share what they've found out and what they've achieved through the journey. They can create a Plastic Clever Schools map of your school and local area to keep everyone informed on their progress!

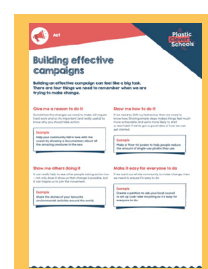
To complete this stage your pupils will need to -

- Run a campaign to tackle at least two problem plastics in your school.
- Share photo evidence of plastic action e.g. reusable bottles in class
- Create a celebration video

Pupil workbook resources -



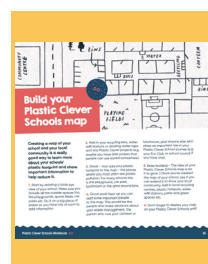
Inspiration



Building effective campaigns



How to write an advocacy letter



Build your Plastic Clever Schools map

Run a campaign

Support pupils in showcasing their work via school website/social media/press

You can ensure that all the hard work & effort put in over the course of the Plastic Clever Schools journey is celebrated by the school as a whole, and in the community. Local newspapers are always eager to share good news, especially related to youth & the environment. You can also let the rest of the Plastic Clever Schools community know what you've been doing by tagging your social media posts @CommonSeas @Kidsagainstplastic #PlasticCleverSchools (make sure you check your schools social media policy first).

Support your pupils' campaigns

Pupil campaigns are the key to becoming a Plastic Clever School. Empowering pupils to think and act on behalf of their community will build their skills and confidence to make decisions and act as leaders.

Support and encourage pupils as they develop and deliver on their campaign ideas to influence their community. Help them to identify any barriers to their progress and ways in which they can overcome these. This might mean you help to amplify their work by organising an interview with a local radio station or help co-ordinate a meeting with a council member.

[Link to campaigns worksheet here](#)

Create a video

Help your pupils create their celebratory video

[Check out page 25 in the pupils workbook for more info](#)

Take us on a tour of your school so we can see the actions that have been taken to reduce single use plastic. You could even introduce some of the brilliant pupils and teachers who helped along the way! Keep it short, we recommend 3 minutes max. Please make sure you have the necessary permission from parents before any videos are shared with us online.

Share photo evidence

Assign a team of Plastic Clever photographers to capture all the action as campaigns are in full swing.

They'll need access to a school camera and some instruction on how to use it. Your pupils will need to share pictures of the plastic reductions they've made as part of your evidence. For example, if you've swapped single use cups for reusable bottles in the classroom, send us a snap!



What next ?

Encourage pupils to continue their advocacy beyond their certification

Your journey in reducing plastic in school shouldn't stop once you've become a Plastic Clever School ! You've now got all the tools you need to identify the next problem plastics and keep reducing. You can also explore opportunities to have a positive impact in your community as a whole.

Engaging staff, parents and your wider community

Share opportunities for Continued Professional Development (CPD)

Keen to enhance staff learning, improve subject confidence and minimise workload? Once you have registered on the Plastic Clever Schools platform, keep an eye out for information and invitations to training workshops and events. You can also access some brilliant free staff development resources by our friends at Encounter Education.

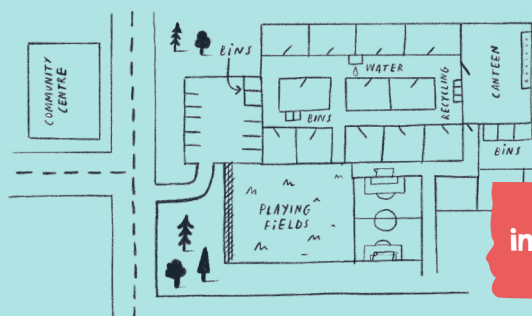
Find them here

Other opportunities for training and CPD will be available through the Ocean Plastics Academy platform. Get in touch if you'd like to know more about how we can support your school to build a Plastic Clever curriculum - hello@commonseas.com

Explore what long term changes you can make through policy and/or procurement at school.

Create a Plastic Clever Schools map

Work with pupils to make a map of your local area and add key information about all things Plastic Clever. Engage with local businesses to add them too. More guidance on how to create this and what to include can be found in the pupil workbook.



Check out page 9 in the pupils workbook for more info

Find champions in your local community

Who are the champions in your local community? Is there a coffee shop that has made changes to reduce their waste? Can you connect with them and find ways to celebrate and promote their efforts?

Amy & Ella, founders of Kids Against Plastic, have been helping their local businesses become Plastic Clever. This could be a great next step for your pupils to take Plastic Clever into the community.

Find out more here

Host a celebration event once you've been certified as a PCS

How could you best celebrate your pupils' hard work? Is there a way to bring the whole school together to do so? How will you help keep this event plastic waste free? Perhaps you could create a plastic free party pack. This could be loaned out to the school community too to help families reduce waste at home on special occasions.

Inspire other schools

Connect with other schools in your area to encourage them to sign up to Plastic Clever Schools. Your pupils could act as mentors and share their experience & ideas with other local schools.

Ocean Plastics Lesson 7 & 8

As you build your action campaigns for reducing plastic waste, you and your pupils need a strong understanding of the different options for managing waste, and which ones are the best! The following Ocean Plastic Academy resources introduce the waste hierarchy (the 6 Rs), before supporting pupils to work together to design and deliver powerful campaigns to affect change at school.

7. What can I do? Pt. 1

Learn more about the waste hierarchy and how the 6Rs can help reduce plastic waste, then be inspired to build your own campaigns to apply them..



8. What can I do? Pt. 2

Review the success of school wide campaigns and the impact they had on plastic consumption at school.



Congratulations! You've reached the end of Level 3



Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

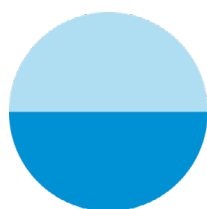
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Common Seas

We're a not-for-profit enterprise that's tackling the plastic pollution crisis by driving new policy, investing in the circular economy and catalysing a cultural shift in how we make, use and dispose of plastic. We created Ocean Plastics Academy, a movement to inspire and equip young people to take on plastic pollution in their schools, their homes and their futures.



**Massive congratulations from
Jo & Sarah at Common Seas**



**Common
Seas**

**KIDS
against
PLASTIC**

Kids Against Plastic

Kids Against Plastic was founded by teenagers Amy and Ella Meek. When they found out about the harm caused by plastic pollution they needed to do something about it. They created KAP – a charity by kids, for kids – to inspire and motivate others to take action too. Since 2018, they've picked up over 90,000 pieces of single-use plastic litter (and developed an app to log it!), and gathered a team of incredible kids around the UK who are tackling plastic pollution.



What does Plastic Clever mean?

Plastic Clever is a phrase created by Kids Against Plastic to describe a person, school or business that understands the plastic problem and is taking action to do something about it. The aim is to start reducing plastic waste, not strive for zero plastic. Progress is more important than perfection.

What is a 'Plastic Clever School'?

A Plastic Clever School is one which has worked as a whole community to reduce its plastic waste- with pupils leading the way to inspire change and motivate action.

What evidence do we need to submit to achieve Plastic Clever Schools status?

In each stage of the Plastic Clever journey, you can submit evidence towards achieving your award. This evidence can be in a variety of forms (photos, videos, updated policies, lesson plans, quotes, newspaper clippings, pupils work, tweets, audit results) and we welcome your creativity here. However, we do have a few minimum requirements for each stage.

What is the difference between Plastic Clever Schools & Ocean Plastics Academy?

That's a good one! Created by Common Seas, Ocean Plastics Academy is a movement to inspire and equip young people to take on the plastic pollution challenge. Plastic Clever Schools is one part of this. We believe literacy (learning about the problem), action (real life experience to tackle it) and governance are essential to achieving this. So, Ocean Plastics Academy has three elements:

- Learning about plastic with our suite of curriculum-aligned teaching resources, building knowledge and skills for students aged 5-16 years.
- Taking action to become a Plastic Clever School through student-led, school-wide action to measure and radically reduce single use plastics.
- Creating long lasting impact through structural change for an education system fit-for-purpose to end plastic pollution, alongside pioneering schools, expert partners and friends

How do we apply to become a Plastic Clever School?

[sign up here](#)

How do we access all the resources?

You can find all the resources in the pupil workbook here - https://commonseas.com/uploads/Plastic-Clever-Schools_Pupil-Workbook.pdf