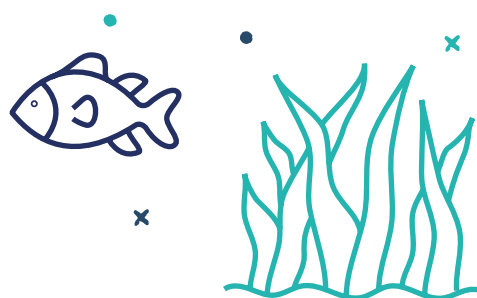




# GLOBAL TEACHER TOOLKIT





# Hello!

## Welcome to Plastic Clever Schools

**A Plastic Clever Schools not only reduces plastic waste, it equips young people to become active global citizens beyond the classroom walls, providing real-world experiences in which to apply new knowledge, practice skills and build confidence for a future without plastic waste.**

Endorsed by UNESCO-IOC as an Ocean Decade project, Plastic Clever Schools is equipping teachers with the knowledge and resources to foster ocean literacy and empower student-led action on plastic pollution.

Through this process, students complete three simple, yet powerful stages: Inspire, Investigate and Act. Each stage puts youth at the heart of the action, equipping them to make a tangible and positive impact on plastic waste by providing real-world experiences.

Endorsed by



Funded by



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This Toolkit will provide everything you need to support and encourage your students along the way, enabling them to lead change and make a lasting impact as a Plastic Clever school, including essential resources to achieve the award, plus materials, ideas and inspiration to engage your wider community.

We'll explain the stages and how it all works over the next few pages so, for now, thank you and Welcome to the Plastic Clever Schools community!

Developed by



**Here is your quick, one-stop guide to the PCS process to support you and your students along the way.**

### BEFORE YOU START:

- ✓ Register your school at [www.plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join](http://www.plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join).
- ✓ Read through Teacher Toolkit for step-by-step support
- ✓ Provide your students with the Student Workbook (print or use online)
- ✓ (Optional) Print Student Sheets per group of students
- ✓ (Optional) Print LEARN MORE factsheets as posters for the classroom



### Participation:

Anyone can join in with Plastic Clever Schools, and we strongly encourage whole-school participation. However, it is helpful to have a specific group of students dedicated to this project, for example a specific class, extracurricular club (e.g. eco-club) or an after-school student group.

Through the different stages, students will be expected to share their learnings with their peers and involve their community in the reduction of plastic pollution to protect our rivers and ocean.

**Note:** Younger students will need more support to deliver their actions. This resource is intended as a guide and may require your expertise to adapt activities to the needs of your students.



### Student Workbook:

Let your students lead the way on this journey. In the workbook, students will find:

- Plastic Clever Schools levels and steps
- Student Sheets (p.11-13)
- Guidance Sheets (p.14-16)
- LEARN MORE factsheets (p.17-24)

### Activity Times:

An estimated time to complete the award is 6-8 hours, which can be delivered quickly (e.g. as part of a day of action) or across a number of weeks or semesters.

We have not allocated specific times to each activity, as timings will vary based on the ideas of your students, the time available in your school, and the time available to you.



**Plastic Clever Schools is deliberately flexible to meet the requirements of your school and the creativity of your students**

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LEVEL ONE:  
**INSPIRE**

Get your students inspired to help solve the plastic problem! Introduce them to the wonders of rivers and the ocean, while they learn why plastic waste is a problem for the local and global environment.

STEP	GUIDANCE	RESOURCES	PLATFORM EVIDENCE
1 Community Cleanup	Organize a cleanup in your school's yard, local neighborhood or a nearby river/beach.	<b>Teacher Tool:</b> Cleanup Checklist	Upload Picture (this can be a picture of the event in action, or of the litter collected)
2 Assembly Time	Host a student assembly to raise awareness around plastic pollution and its effects on our rivers and oceans.	<b>Teacher Tool:</b> Assembly Presentation or Assembly Document	Upload Picture
3 Plastic Clever Pledge	Students make a poster, arts & crafts piece or video to pledge to help their school become Plastic Clever.		Upload Picture or Video



LEVEL TWO:  
**INVESTIGATE**

Discover the problematic plastics in your school and get ready to do something about it!

STEP	GUIDANCE	RESOURCES	PLATFORM EVIDENCE
1 Plastic Count	Use the Plastic Count Student Sheet to discover the single use plastic items in your school.	<b>Student Sheet 2a:</b> Plastic Count	Upload Student Sheet 2a
2 Action Plan	Support your students to understand the results of the Plastic Count and to consider which plastic items they want to tackle. Create an action plan to reduce at least two types of plastic waste in your school or community.	<b>Guidance Sheet:</b> The 6 Sustainability Actions <b>Student Sheet 2b:</b> Action Plan	Upload Student Sheet 2b or your own version of a school action plan.



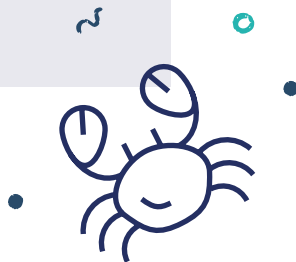
LEVEL THREE:  
**ACT**

You are onto your final stages to become Plastic Clever! Support your students in taking action against plastic pollution, with campaigns to encourage their community to wave goodbye to single use plastics.

STEP	GUIDANCE	RESOURCES	Platform Evidence
1 Run a campaign	Help your students organize a campaign in the school or community, focusing on an action from their Action Plan against single use plastics. Capture them in action!	<b>Guidance Sheet:</b> Build Effective Campaigns How to write an advocacy letter	Upload Picture
2 Share the changes	What changes (big or small) have you made in your school to reduce the problem plastics identified in your Plastic Count? Tell us in a paragraph or show us a picture.		Upload Picture
3 Celebration	Celebrate the moment or achievement you are most proud of through your Plastic Clever journey.		Upload Picture, File, Presentation etc

AFTER YOU FINISH THE LEVELS:

You are a Plastic Clever School!  
Upload any remaining to complete your award, and don't forget to fill in the [Teacher Feedback Form](#).



DON'T FORGET!

to upload all the evidence on the Plastic Clever School platform. It is helpful to do this at each stage to track your progress and share your journey.



# LEVEL ONE INSPIRE



## Skills/Competences

Collaboration  
Communication  
Soft Skills

## Resources

### TEACHER TOOLS:

- Cleanup Checklist
- Assembly Presentation (.ppt)
- Assembly (.doc)

### LEARN MORE:

- Different types of plastics
- The lifecycle of a plastic bottle
- How plastic ends up in the ocean
- Climate Change

### STUDENT SHEETS:

- Biodiversity Investigation (Optional)

### DO MORE:

Same time as Community Cleanup. Encourage students to complete the biodiversity investigation at the same time. This will help them know more about the local environment and why it's important to protect it from plastic pollution.

### WHERE TO FIND THE RESOURCES:

- In the **Student Workbook**
- In the **Teacher Toolkit**
- Through a **URL link**

## Level overview

Learn all about plastic and share that information with classmates, teachers, parents and the school community. In this first stage, your students will discover where plastic products come from, the different types of plastic, and why it's so important to become Plastic Clever.

## Level Steps

## Tips

### 1 Host a Community Cleanup

Help students prepare for a community cleanup, with the Cleanup Checklist. If they are planning on running a bigger cleanup, perhaps inviting parents/carers & community members to join, they may need additional support with the invitation process.

EVIDENCE: Upload picture

### 2 Raise Awareness with a School Assembly

An assembly is a great way to reach out to a wider group or the whole student body. It can be delivered by teachers or students (or delivering together is always fun!) and you can invite other staff, parents, and carers to join in - reaching the whole community at once.

EVIDENCE: Upload picture

### 3 Make a Plastic Clever Pledge

Students get creative to make a poster, arts & crafts piece or video pledge to become Plastic Clever school.

EVIDENCE: Picture or Video

The **Community Cleanup** can take place in the school's yard, the neighborhood or a nearby river or beach. If you need some equipment (bags, gloves, tools etc), you could ask your local authorities, businesses nearby or River Cleanup to lend/donate materials.

We have prepared a **PCS School Assembly** presentation for you. You can use either if you have the means. Otherwise, discuss the ocean, the rivers and how plastic pollution affects our environment with your students. More information can be found on the Factsheets.

Use these questions to prompt the **Plastic Clever Pledge**:

- Is plastic pollution a problem in your local community?
- What marine animals do we protect by reducing single use plastic use?
- How would your school, local environment and planet improve if everyone helped become Plastic Clever?
- Why is this award important to you?

## LEVEL ONE INSPIRE

# Community Clean-up Checklist

## Clean-up location

- ☐ School yard
- ☐ Forest
- ☐ School
- ☐ River
- ☐ Neighbourhood
- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Urban Area

## Joining

- ☐ Students
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Community

## Equipment

- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Hand Sanitizers
- ☐ Litter Pickers
- ☐ Hats
- ☐ Sand Shifters
- ☐ Closed Shoes
- ☐ Collection Bags
- ☐ Sunscreen

## ☐ PLAN & CHECK CLEANUP ROUTE

## ☐ REVIEW SAFETY GUIDELINES

TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
(recommend 20- 60 mins)

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Sort waste into plastic, glass, residual waste, and dispose in corresponding recycling bins where available.



Ask your local authorities, businesses nearby or River Cleanup to lend/donate materials.

[river-cleanup.org/en/how-to-organize-a-cleanup#request](https://river-cleanup.org/en/how-to-organize-a-cleanup#request)

## Safety guidelines

- Wear gloves on both hands.
- Wear appropriate footwear, such as enclosed shoes.
- Do not collect sharp or dangerous objects.
- Identify a safeguarding lead or first aider. In case of injury, contact this person immediately.
- Avoid moving heavy objects.
- Never open bottles or jars with liquid inside.
- Wash your hands before eating or drinking.
- Never take risks to collect litter.
- Ensure the cleanup route is safe and accessible.
- In areas with vegetation: watch for holes - test the ground with your foot or a stick.
- Follow traffic rules at all times.
- Keep children close and away from bodies of water.





# LEVEL TWO INVESTIGATE

## Skills/Competences

Collaboration  
Productivity  
Critical thinking  
Information literacy

## Resources

### STUDENT SHEETS:

Plastic Count  
Action Plan

### GUIDANCE SHEETS:

The 6 Sustainability Actions

### LEARN MORE:

How pollution affects aquatic life  
Plastic Pollution Facts  
The 5 Gyres

### EXTENSION:

Some Plastic Count items may need input from school staff members. Encourage students to seek out information and collect data from other sources to build their confidence as leaders. If relevant to their age, why not even create some graphs!

### WHERE TO FIND THE RESOURCES:

In the **Student Workbook**  
In the **Teacher Toolkit**  
Through a **URL link**

## Level overview

Help your students discover the problem plastics in your school and get ready to do something about it. Your students will learn about how plastic gets into the ocean, and the impact plastic pollution has on us, our communities and our natural environment.

## Level Steps

### 1 Complete the PCS Plastic Count

We've created a simple Student Sheet (Plastic Count) to help identify single-use plastics in different areas of your school. Students can do a simple count of the single-use plastic items they find around the site, or they can multiply that number to understand its frequency of use and volume within a month or year.

**EVIDENCE:** Upload 'Plastic Count' Student Sheet

### 2 Create an Action Plan

Support your students to understand the results of the Plastic Count and consider which plastic items they want to tackle.

Which items will have the biggest impact if they are reduced? Will there be a cost to the school or parents and carers? How long will it take to implement? Who is responsible and able to affect change?

**EVIDENCE:** Upload 'Action Plan' Student Sheet

## Tips

The **Plastic Count** can be done together by one group or, to save time, separate students into groups to document different areas of the school.

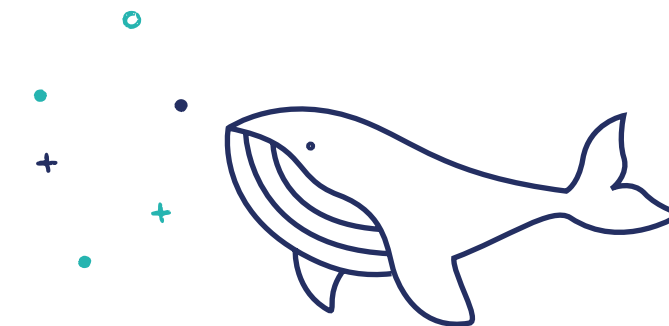
The **Action Plan** Student sheet will help students think of some practical ideas to reduce single use plastic. Common Seas provides a School Action Fund to help schools implement their student-led action plans. Don't miss out! - follow us on Instagram to stay up to date on grant application periods

@plastic\_clever\_schools

The **6 Sustainability Actions** help your students learn more about the waste hierarchy. Before planning their action plan, encourage them to consider the importance of focussing on waste reduction and prevention, rather than recycling.



# LEVEL THREE ACT



## Skills/Competences

Leadership  
Flexibility  
Creativity  
Communication  
Social

## Resources

### GUIDANCE SHEETS:

Building Effective Campaigns  
How to Write an Advocacy Letter

### LEARN MORE:

Circular Economy

### WHERE TO FIND THE RESOURCES:

In the **Student Workbook**  
In the **Teacher Toolkit**  
Through a **URL link**

## Level overview

Now it's time for your students to create a positive impact through exciting campaigns to help your school and community wave goodbye to single-use plastic. Your students will find out how they can make a difference and put new advocacy skills into practice, taking inspiration from young people and organizations around the world.

## Level Steps

### 1 Deliver a Campaign to tackle plastic waste

Student campaigns are the key to becoming a Plastic Clever School. Support and encourage your students as they develop and deliver on at least one action from their Action Plan, with a campaign to influence their community. They can present to other students, create a poster to hang in school, set up an information stand, write an advocacy letter to the principal/ parents/ teachers, or even run a social media campaign!

**EVIDENCE:** Upload Picture

### 2 Share the Changes!

Your students will need to share pictures of the plastic reductions they've made in school as part of your evidence. For example, if you've swapped plastic food containers with cloth bags or natural leaves, take a picture! If you have taken steps to make changes, write a brief description of what these steps are.

**EVIDENCE:** Upload Picture

### 3 Celebrate your success

Celebrate the moment or achievement you are most proud of through your Plastic Clever journey. We would love to see a photo, video, news article, student blog post, or any other approach you can think of to tell this story.

**EVIDENCE:** Upload Picture, File, Presentation

## Tips

The **Campaign** objective is to increase awareness in the community and communicate a call to action, in line with the students' Action Plan. Once they decide which action they are going to focus on, they can think:

- Who is the campaign audience?
- What is the message they want to communicate?
- What is the best way to reach their audience?

To **celebrate your success**, don't forget to reflect! Reflection is an important part of the journey as it will help students to celebrate the wins, recognise the challenges and consider their next moves.

- Which solution or campaign was the most successful?
- What challenges did they face? Were they able to overcome them?
- What has been their proudest moment? This question is key. Recognizing their own achievements, or those of others, will help develop a sense of purpose and build confidence as advocates and active citizens.





## Take further action! Ready to wave goodbye to plastic waste?

Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Start a newsletter
- Give a presentation to your school leaders
- Get another local school involved!
- Plan an event
- Create a blog or social media account
- Create posters to put up in plastic hotspots
- Need money to make some of your ideas possible? Come up with a fun way to fundraise!

## Biodiversity Investigation

While you are doing the Community Cleanup, encourage your students to take notice of the schools local flora and fauna. The student Biodiversity Investigation Student Sheet (see Student Workbook) will help with this, or let them draw a map of the school to illustrate the different habitats and local biodiversity.

## Start an Eco Business!

'Ecopreneurship' involves fostering an understanding of environmental issues and then encouraging your students to develop a business solution that can address the issue. This can be done through hands-on activities, real-world examples and by nurturing entrepreneurial skills like creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. It can also be a great source of sustainable income for your schools! Check out some ideas in the Student Workbook.

## Need help uploading the evidence on the Plastic Clever School platform? Let us help you.



### School Registration

[plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join)

You are in the Register page, where you need to add the school's information.

**Email address:** If possible, please provide a school email address.

**School Name:** This is essential to help us verify your school account.

**Country and Postcode:** Add your school to the PCS school map!

Once registered, you will be able to access resources and upload evidence immediately.



### Log In

[plasticcleverschools.co.uk/login](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/login)

You are in the Log In page, which means your account has been activated.

**Username or Email:** Enter the email address with which you registered (school email)

**Password:** Use the password you created

If you have trouble signing in, press "Lost Password" and an email will be sent automatically that allows you to reset your password.



### School PCS Profile

[plasticcleverschools.co.uk/profile](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/profile)

On the school's PCS profile page you can see which steps and Levels have been completed, track the evidence you have submitted and you can also submit new evidence.



### Evidence Submission

In the PCS school profile, press the "Submit New Evidence" button.

**Title:** Add your own title, relating to the step your students have completed.

**Category:** Add the step that this specific evidence is linked to.

- **Inspire Part 1:** Community Clean Up Photo
- **Inspire Part 2:** School Assembly Photo
- **Inspire Part 3:** River/Ocean Pollution creation Photo or Video
- **Investigate Part 1:** Plastic Count Student Sheet
- **Investigate Part 2:** Action Plan Student Sheet
- **Act Part 1:** Share the Changes Picture
- **Act Part 2:** Campaign Picture
- **Act Part 3:** Celebration Picture, File or Video

**Evidence:** "Feature Photo" is the photo that is going to be displayed in our inspiration page! Check out: [plasticcleverschools.co.uk/inspiration](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/inspiration). You can upload photos, videos or pdf files.

**Content:** Write something about the students' experience as they implemented that specific step

**Visibility:**

- **"Public"** means the evidence you uploaded will be displayed on PCS Inspiration page [plasticcleverschools.co.uk/inspiration](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/inspiration)
- **"Private"** means evidence will NOT be publicly displayed on the PCS Inspiration page.

**Please make sure you have parental consent for public display of the students' faces, OR make sure to blur/cover faces before uploading pictures.**

**If you don't already have this consent, you can access a [photo permission form here](#).**

**GDPR:** Please tick to confirm that the post you uploaded does not contain sensitive personal information.

**Copyright:** Please tick to confirm the pictures and images you submitted are the school's copyright.

**Publicity:** Tick if you agree for PCS to use the pictures and images you submitted for promotion. You can access our policy on this here.



Evidence is manually approved for safety and privacy reasons, so please allow a couple of days before your profile is updated with submitted evidence.







Common Seas and Kids Against Plastic joined forces to create Plastic Clever Schools, this school-wide challenge to reduce plastic waste with young people at the heart of the action. Now we have teamed up with River Cleanup, helping even more teachers and students become part of our global movement to wave goodbye to plastic pollution.



**Common Seas** is a social enterprise 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. Our mission is to quickly and significantly reduce the amount of plastic produced and stop it polluting our rivers and seas. We want every child to experience the wonders of our ocean, while learning about the complex problem of plastic pollution, so they can be part of a future freed from plastic waste.



**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.



**River Cleanup** is a global network organization on a mission to clean rivers by empowering people, preventing pollution, and accelerating change. The non-profit organization has teams in Belgium, Indonesia and Cameroon, and plans to expand their activities to more countries soon. Each country has an impact zone where they implement their Clean River Model. The school program is part of River Cleanup's efforts to empower people of all ages to take care of their local rivers.



# Lesson plans for classroom learning

Want to do more? We have some ready-to-go lesson plans and activities to help embed learning in the curriculum too: Common Seas Education resources teach 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. The full suite of primary resources can be found here.

- [under 5s](#)
- [5-7 years](#)
- [7-11 years](#)
- [11 - 14 years](#)
- [14-16 years](#)

## Useful QR codes



Register or Log In to Plastic Clever Schools  
[plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/join)



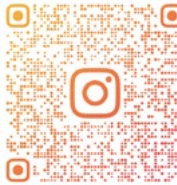
Upload Plastic Clever Schools Evidence  
[plasticcleverschools.co.uk/profile](https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/profile)



Share your feedback  
[forms.cloud.microsoft/e/J3Pp7sjTfM](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/J3Pp7sjTfM)



Additional Ocean Literacy Resources  
[URL HERE](#)



Follow Us on Instagram  
[@plastic\\_clever\\_schools](#)





# Plastic Clever Schools



Common  
Seas

x

RIVER  
CLEANUP



x

**KIDS**  
against  
**PLASTIC**