

Guidance to Successfully Managing Waste & Litter in the school setting

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Waste Management in your school

- Here is some guidance on bins for maintaining your Litter and Waste Flags - for your bin system in the school. These lessons have been gained from the experiences with teachers and students from over 150 schools



Bin Stations

- Bins should ideally be grouped, never placed singly around the room or corridors, main halls, food areas, staff room etc.,
- Best practice is to create a Bin Station, (and label it as a Bin station if you can)
- Less is more, Less bins gives reduced options for waste and bin contamination.
- Bins should be placed in busy areas where people can monitor each other.



Classroom Bins

- Each classroom should have a two-bin system with the bins labelled clearly.
- Black label for the general waste and green label for the recycling.
- Schools use all sorts of bins so it doesn't matter what you use but the labels should be consistent.



Where to situate the Bins

- Corridor bins - you can have a two bin system for non-food areas.
- Both bins can be placed next to each other and labelled clearly on the bin and just over the bin.
- If you have too many bins they won't be used properly.



Bin stations



Bin Labels are Very Important

- If the posters are too high above the bin people won't make the connection, they are looking at the bin rather than the poster.
- If the bin has been there for a long time and you are introducing a new system then you should really move the bins to a new location at least a few meters away from the original location- this will induce a cognitive response where people have to get used to a new system.
- Again bins should be labelled consistently throughout.



- Here is the link for the MyWaste.ie Bin stickers and wall posters. <https://www.mywaste.ie/business/> You can order them or download and print.
- These contain images so are good to use.
- However you can use your own images or labels if you like of course.



Food Waste

- In food areas there should be a Bin station with three bins labelled clearly. The Food waste bin can accept all types of food waste (except cooking oil).
- Food Waste bins should have brown labels
- A brown bin collection service should be available to support this.



Climate Action

- It's very effective if you are changing a behavior – to have a start launch-date.
- Celebrate this new system and promote it with parents and the wider community using photos of children with their new system
- You can promote the whole bin system as a climate action. The Food Waste is recycling nutrients back into compost for gardening.
- A popular champion student(s) or teacher(s) can lead the behavioural change.



The Staff Room

- The staff room is a busy place. What you need here is a 3-bin system also. There are several types of waste produced here. You might also need a covered container at the sink for tea bags and fruit which can be added to your brown bin later.
- Coffee granules can be added to the garden directly if desired.
- To gain good compliance it is very effective, if you are changing things around - if you can move the bins if it works and if there's space.



LITTER

- To improve litter in the school here are a few ideas, these are from carrying out school visits in a number of settings,
- All schools have slightly different solutions to the problem and some schools have no litter problem at all.



Method

- Create incentives for keeping areas litter-free.
- Even if it is a bit cleaner week by week then after 5 or 6 weeks there will be a huge improvement
- Homework passes are always a good incentive
- It works well to have areas compete against each other, if the school has 2 or 3 areas then there can be a competition for which area gets clean and stays clean,
- The score cards for the areas can be in a prominent location in the school.
- Fingal County Council can provide the litter pickers
- Students should be reminded before they go outdoors about the competition



- A popular champion student(s) or teacher(s) can lead the behavioural change.
- Litter picking certainly should not be a punishment.
- Link in the litter with the marine environment – plastics getting washed by the rain into the marine environment
- There are Waste and Litter Workshops available funded by Fingal County Council



What is the source of the litter

- Find out where is the source of the litter, if it's lunches (and especially if there's seagulls lining up on the roof for the students scraps!) then you might consider having the food indoors.
- Most schools have the food indoors in designated areas
- The job of collecting litter should be rotated so that it isn't the same people or the same class or year all the time.
- The older students will create a good example by leading in this regard



Painting and general appearance

- If there are areas around the school yard that are not being maintained then those areas will draw litter.
- If you need paint for shelters or anything around the school please email dave@rediscoverycentre.ie for free recycled paint from the Rediscovery Centre funded by Fingal County Council.
- They provide a number of colours and even deliver it.
- You might wish to paint a mural in the school (indoors or outdoors) with an environmental or climate theme. If you need funding for an artist to assist with this please send me a proposal sinead.fox@fingal.ie



Thank you I hope this was useful in helping you to address waste management in your school.

