

Ideas how to increase recycling and reduce waste in school



Top tips to get recycling right

1. Speak to your Caretaker or Site Manager
2. Complete a waste audit in classrooms, school office and the staff room
3. Make sure rubbish bin and recycling bin are next to each other, plus scrap paper
4. Print off bin posters www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-education-resources or create your own.
5. Get students and staff involved. Hold an assembly / create a video / class challenge

Top tips to get food waste right

1. Get food waste caddies in classrooms, dining hall and outside areas
2. Decorate food waste bins with images of fruit and vegetables
3. Have plate scrapers to help students understand how to separate off food waste
4. Ask why food is not being eaten - pupil food survey – change unpopular meals?
5. Make the dining hall a nice place to stay and eat

Other ideas to make your school more environmentally friendly:

- ✓ **Reusable water bottles and sandwich tubs.** Encourage students to use reusable water bottles and reusable tubs for their lunch, instead of sandwich bags/cling film/foil. Speak to your Head Teacher to ask if reusable plastic bottle can be added to the School Uniform list. Make sure the teachers are doing it too!
- ✓ **Preloved uniform.** Ensure old uniform is reused by setting up a Preloved school uniform shop. See our advice at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-education-resources
- ✓ **Compost bin.** Visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/composting to order a reduced-rate bin to compost the school's food and garden waste.
- ✓ **Litter pick.** Organise a litter pick in and around school. For advice and how to borrow free litter pick kits, see www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/litterpicking
- ✓ **Turn off lights and tech.** Ask for volunteers to become Light Monitors for each class to make sure that classroom lights, computers, laptops, tablets, interactive white boards and all other tech is switch off properly at the end of the school day.
- ✓ **Reuse fundraising** Hold a bring and buy sale for toys & games to raise funds for an eco project in school. Visit www.bag2school.com to find out how to collect old clothes to raise funds for school.
- ✓ **Other competition ideas.** Plan an upcycling or junk model competition or recycled fashion show / create a game to help teach younger students how to recycle / write poems about recycling, not littering or polluting the planet.