

10 steps to improving recycling and reducing waste in your school.

1. Dry recycling in schools is the same as recycling at home. All of your clean plastic pots, tubs and tray, card, paper, liquid cartons, food tins, and drinks cans etc. should be recycled together, they do not need to be separated.
2. Labelling, signage, colours, and bin styles, should be kept consistent for general waste and recycling throughout the school.
3. Anywhere there is a general waste bin, there should be a recycling collection point next to it.
4. Hold an assembly each year to remind students of the recycling system, and inform new students how your system works (e.g. which containers are for recycling, what can be recycled, why it should/shouldn't be recycled).
5. Remember: recycling is free – general waste is chargeable. By recycling properly in school, with clear signage, you could reduce refuse costs and save the school money.
6. Avoid calling recycling 'waste' or the recycling containers 'bins'. Recycling is a resource and the language should reflect as such.
7. Look into your suppliers and contractors – can they reduce the waste coming into the school, for example what is sold in the cafeteria.
8. Make sure teachers do it too and lead by example – use reusable coffee cups and bottles, reduce plastic in their lunches, and recycle properly.
9. Make sure the recycling is put into the correct bin at the end of the day – there's no use recycling in the classroom if it goes in the wrong bin when taken out. So ensure cleaners or students, whoever is responsible for getting the waste out of the classroom, knows what to do and why it's important.
10. Recycle food waste where you can – can the kitchen staff recycle their food prep waste and look at how to reduce their waste?