

Single Use Plastics Policy



Lower Halstow School

**‘Respect, Honesty, Kindness,
Perseverance’**

Created: January 2024

Approved	Team	Review
January 2024	SLT	January 2026

Objective:

The objective of this policy is to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics within Lower Halstow School and promote sustainable practices among children, staff, and the wider school community.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the school community, including children, teachers, staff, and visitors.

Implementation Timeline:

This policy will be implemented starting February 2024. A transition period will be in place to allow for adjustment and education.

Policy Guidelines:

Discouraged Items:

- Single-use plastic water bottles.
- Plastic straws.
- Disposable plastic utensils.
- Plastic stirrers.
- Plastic food packaging that is non-recyclable or non-compostable.

Alternatives:

- Encourage the use of reusable water bottles and provide water refill stations throughout the school.
- Replace plastic straws with paper or reusable alternatives.
- Transition to compostable or reusable utensils for school events and canteen use.
- Seek out eco-friendly alternatives for food packaging.
- Test papers packed in recyclable plastic wrappers.

Awareness and Education:

Conduct awareness campaigns to educate children, staff and parents about the environmental impact of single-use plastics.

Integrate environmental education into the curriculum to foster a culture of sustainability.

Provide information on the benefits of reducing single-use plastics and the alternatives available.

Resources:

Ensure children are aware of the taps that have drinking water that they can use to fill up their bottles.

Implement a waste separation system with clearly marked bins for recycling and composting.

Explore partnerships with local businesses to support the school's transition to eco-friendly alternatives.

Curriculum Links:

From Year R to 6, the curriculum offers a range of opportunities where the children focus on pollution (including plastics) and what the environmental impact is. In Years R – 3 the children build models with recycle packaging, including bottles, to emphasise the re-using of plastic.

The children have a weekly Picture News focus and this regularly includes environmental stories focusing on single use plastics their impact on the environment.

Some specific curriculum examples include:

- In Year 1 the Term 4 topic is entitled 'How to help your World', the children focus on the environmental impact of single use plastics.
- In Year 2 the Science focus is Sea pollution.
- In Year 3 the children focus on sustainability and rainforests.

School Events:

Promote plastic-free events by encouraging the use of reusable or compostable materials.

Work with event organisers to minimise the use of single-use plastics during school functions and events.

School and Village Litter picks

The Big Plastic Count event promoted in school for children to complete at home

Participation in the Cut your Carbon event.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Establish a monitoring system to track the reduction of single-use plastics within the school.

Conduct regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness of the policy.

Gather feedback from the school community for continuous improvement.

Recognition and Incentives:

Recognise and celebrate individuals and classes that actively contribute to reducing single-use plastics.

Consider implementing incentive programmes to motivate and reward sustainable practices.

Review and Revision:

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Adjustments will be made as needed based on the evolving landscape of sustainable practices and regulations.