

CASE STUDY

BIGNOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL JULY 2021



**REDUCE
SINGLE
USE**



BACKGROUND

Bignold Primary School have been keen recyclers for a number of years and have an established group of 'Waste Warriors' who have worked hard to make sure that things go in the right bins. They have made labels and posters to remind everyone to recycle correctly and led assemblies for everyone else in school to explain how important this is. Not only have they tried to help the rest of the school to recycle, they have also sent recycling packs home to help their families too. They have even started a food waste collection in school so that any leftovers are taken away and made into compost, instead of simply being wasted.



REDUCE SINGLE-USE

The school were doing so well with their recycling that they decided to go one step further and reduce the amount of single-use plastics and products used in school too. They started by doing an audit to find out where the problem areas were, and also to identify what good work they were already doing! They then used this information to draw up an action plan of the things they wanted to change. They have made some great progress with their action plan and have already ticked off enough targets on the Charter to achieve their bronze and silver Reduce Single-Use awards and are now working towards their gold.

ACHIEVED:

- Everyone brings in a refillable water bottle. Reusable cups are offered as an alternative if the bottle is forgotten
- School lunches are served on reusable plates
- Any school provided drinks are served in reusable cups/beakers, poured from reusable jugs
- Disposable cutlery used at lunchtimes swapped for reusable cutlery
- Disposable polystyrene containers used to serve jacket potatoes swapped to more eco-friendly cardboard containers. Reusable options were investigated but, because jacket potatoes are eaten outside, these were not deemed viable
- Only whole pieces of fruit are offered at snack and lunchtimes – all fruit packaging has been eliminated
- Cakes and buns are no longer put into plastic bags
- The school packed lunch option has been withdrawn due to the high amount of single-use plastics that were used. Pupils now have the option of ordering a hot dinner, jacket potato or bringing a packed lunch from home
- The school kitchen is single-use plastic free and only uses reusable containers for food storage
- No single-use plastics are used in the staffroom – reusable mugs, glasses, plates and cutlery are available for staff to use



ONGOING WORK:

- Looking into suppliers to reduce single-use packaging used on goods coming into school
- Investigating alternatives to certain single-use products/plastics regularly purchased, e.g. bin liners
- Single-use plastic used to package salad will be switched to reusable bowls from September
- Working towards promoting waste free home packed lunches – pupils will write a persuasive letter to parents asking that single-use plastic is not included in packed lunches
- To go alongside the work on waste free packed lunches, parents will also be asked to only send in fruit snacks that are single-use plastic free