



WASTE - CASE STUDIES

Explore exciting projects in Suffolk schools that are reducing waste and driving a circular economy

Recycling

Birchwood Primary has a colourful recycling area where students and the local community can recycle a variety of items, including Babybel packaging, glasses, and bras. Much of this recycling is facilitated by the dedicated school team, who regularly transport the contents of the bins to recycling centres.

The rainbow fridge provides waterproof storage for preloved books, making it easy for students to donate and access second-hand books.

A number of schools are accessing various TerraCycle recycling schemes. **Earl Soham Primary** is using the TerraCycle recycling bags to collect and then recycle their old stationery items.

Earl Soham have also revised some of their regular purchases. They have moved over to biodegradable stickers for the front of children's exercise books and are using drawing pins in place of staples for display boards. They have also switched from plastic milk containers to glass, dramatically reducing their plastic waste.

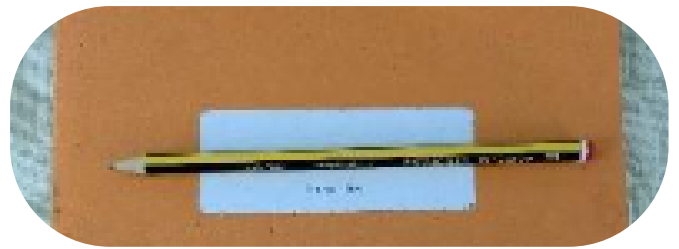


TerraCycle

TerraCycle is a global recycling programme that collects items which are traditionally difficult to recycle, such as pens, packaging, and other school or household waste. Schools and communities can join TerraCycle schemes to ensure these items are properly recycled instead of ending up in landfill. Schools can join by signing up on the TerraCycle UK website and selecting the programmes relevant to them.

Creative and practical solutions

Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham will be keeping any exercise books that still have unmarked pages at the end of the academic year. These books will move up with the pupils in September. This aims to cut down the number of exercise books required each year and highlights to the pupils the continuous nature of their learning.



Broke Hall school has swapped out pens for pencils, reducing their plastic stationery waste. It is also trialling a new method for gluing, replacing glue sticks with glue pots (made with washing up sponges and a slightly watered down PVA). Pupils now just need to dab the corners of their sheets in the glue pot to stick them into their exercise books.

Many OSOW schools have minimalised photocopying and use of the laminator, prompting pupils to use scrap paper first for any rough work has also become an ingrained habit in lots of classrooms.

Composting

Composting was in action in many OSOW schools. Often pupils were given the responsibility of collecting any old fruit left over from snack and adding them to the compost. Pupils in gardening clubs helped look after the compost bins and make sure other appropriate waste was added.

Great Barton Primary has two wormery units which allowed pupils to get to know these marvellous soil-dwelling creatures up close and marvel at their ability to turn food and garden waste into new soil.