

# Saving water in the school



**Creating a school plan to conserve water can be a great way of engaging pupils in learning about the water cycle and the treatment process.**

## Inside

- ◆ Check for leaks and fix them promptly.
- ◆ Encourage pupils to report any leaks, dripping taps or faulty toilets to a member of staff.
- ◆ Remind children to turn off the tap when they've finished washing their hands.
- ◆ Fit solenoid (motion) sensors/infra-red controls on taps to ensure they stop running when not in use.
- ◆ Wash paint brushes in a bowl of water rather than under a running tap.
- ◆ Suggest that pupils don't fill their water bottles all the way to the top to prevent waste if they don't drink it all.
- ◆ Use infant 'water play' times as an opportunity to talk to younger children about how they can help to save water rather than waste it.
- ◆ Consider asking pupils to design and create signs giving hints and tips on how to save water, place the signs around the school, near taps and toilets, in work and kitchen areas.
- ◆ Only use dishwashers on a full load and opt for water efficient models when replacing old ones.

## Outside

- ◆ Make sure pipes are protected against cold weather, sub-zero temperatures can cause bursts.
- ◆ Install water butts if possible to collect rainwater. This rainwater can then be used for watering the school grounds.
- ◆ Water sensibly. Try to water early morning or late evening to limit evaporation, direct water at roots and not leaves.
- ◆ If possible, apply a layer of mulch around plants, this will also help to reduce the amount of evaporation.
- ◆ Use a brush to clean paths instead of a pressure washer or hose.
- ◆ When cleaning outdoor play equipment, use a bucket and sponge rather than a hose. This will be more effective and will save water too.
- ◆ Check the school's pool regularly for any sign of leaks, ensure that it is regularly maintained.

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