



# SAVING WATER...

## In the School

### INSIDE



- Install leak detectors and **fix all leaks promptly**.
- Establish a **'water savers' monitoring team**, involving students reporting on leaks, running and dripping taps, and faulty toilets.
- Ask pupils to design and create signs giving hints and tips on how to save water both in school and at home. Place them near taps/toilets/showers, **reminding users to turn water off** when it is not being used.
- **Install water-efficient aerated showerheads/flow restrictors** and slow-release push buttons on all showers or mixer taps.
- Wipe paint brushes with a rag, then wash them in a bucket rather than under the tap.
- Fit solenoid (motion) sensors/infra-red controls on taps to ensure that they stop running when not in use. This can save up to 70% of hot and cold water and also **saves energy**.
- **Install water-efficient dishwashers** in the kitchens. Encourage kitchen staff always to fully load the dishwasher before use and if possible use an 'economy' cycle.

### OUTSIDE



- Encourage grounds keepers to:
  - Use plants that are suited to the local climate and soil conditions
  - **Avoid over-watering** school gardens
  - **Remove weeds** as soon as they appear
  - Water the base of plants, not the leaves
  - Use a brush (not a hose) to clean paths, paved areas and driveways
  - **Apply a layer of mulch** at a depth of 7-10 cm around plants. This reduces the amount of water evaporating from the soil surface and results in healthier plants.
- **Add water crystals** to any soil surrounding plants. This enhances water retention by up to 40% and creates better conditions for the plants, while reducing the volume of water required to keep them healthy.
- **Install water butts** where possible to collect rainwater from school roofs. This rainwater can then be used to water school grounds.
- When cleaning outside play equipment, always use warm water in a bucket or similar container, with a sponge rather than a hose - this will be more effective as well as saving water and money.