



Taking action from your school

Schools can play a huge part to #bethewave of change needed to protect our ocean.

Understanding the importance of the marine environment to the planet and the threats to its health will help pupils decide what areas they feel passionate about and ignite a desire to make a difference by taking positive actions.

Schools can choose many pathways for action. Choices could include practical litter picking activities, joining initiatives, or creating their own #bethewave campaign. Activities could involve fashion shows, competitions, fundraising events or investigative journalism. The list is endless! It is however imperative for students and staff to become aware of the present behaviours and associated impacts their school is already having on the marine environment, this knowledge would be the starting point for improvement and ownership of their actions and solutions.

Questions should be asked such as how much litter or waste does your school generate? What items are recycled? What cleaning products are used? Are the drains in your school free from litter? How much of your waste is single use plastic? Has our school created a litter policy? When the answers to questions are known, pupils can decide if they are satisfactory or is more action for improvement necessary?

Become a great Eco-School

A great way to start investigating and continually improve the school environment is to make sure your school is an Eco-School. Schools from around the world, including Wales, are part of the [global Eco-Schools programme](#). Seventy countries are now involved and over 56,000 schools registered! In Wales the Eco-Schools programme is managed by [Keep Wales Tidy](#) and from the website you will find useful topic resources for schools, as well as the [Environmental Review document and Action Plan templates](#) – these will assist you in discovering what your school is doing at present and help in planning actions for improvement. Being an Eco-School encourages whole school action, community involvement and communicating your Eco messages far and wide.

Hold a day of action

Organising a day of action at school is a great opportunity to include everybody - pupils, teachers and non-teaching staff - in an event with a focused aim. Days of action need to be well planned and roles and responsibilities allocated. Planning will help you identify your goals - short, mid and long term. Good planning enables you to be more prepared and supports the smooth running of your event, making it enjoyable for all!

A typical school day of action would involve elements of investigation and data collecting, practical tasks and projects, presentations and feedback time.

It is always a good idea to start your day of action with a whole school assembly to kick start the event and set the scene. The rest of the day could involve rotated activities and focused topic lessons.

Whole school suggestions and opinions should be collected throughout the day, these could be captured through pledges, art projects, questionnaires, pictures or video.

A running twitter feed could be arranged with its own Day of Action hashtag.



As well as the structured activities, throughout the day pupils could be asked to take part in litter picks, games, or swap shops for books, toys or clothes.

Experts could be invited to speak on topics related to the chosen theme and if possible, involve the local community as this will bring a range of benefits and wealth of knowledge and expertise ready to be tapped into. Parents, neighbours, local businesses and the local authority can be sources of advice, information, practical help and even money. There is so much potential out in the community, as well as an opportunity to create extra publicity and raise the school profile.

Use our Day of Action Check List to help you on your way

Remember, there is still work to do after your day of action. Data and feedback should be evaluated, and further actions set. Make sure you celebrate and tell people what you have done - write a press release, a news item for the school website or newsletter, promote your activities on social media and let your local community know. Eco-Schools Wales will share and promote your activities so tag @EcoSchoolsWales in your twitter feeds.

Planning, designing and delivering a day of action can be a cross-curricular project involving all areas of learning and experience. Activities such as data collection and presentation can link to mathematics and numeracy. Information can be shown through expressive arts such as poetry and drama and getting outdoors to investigate or litter pick sits with health and well-being.

By investigation and information giving a day of action can highlight issues to help young people understand how they affect the environment and, very importantly, how they can improve it. The findings from the day of action can be taken forward to create more actions, more impact and strengthen pupil voice. This allows an authentic context for students to develop all aspects of the 4 core purposes as well as developing literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills.

Take a look at the Keep Wales Tidy [Schools Day of Action](#) resource for more information and ideas.

Be further Inspired..

For further motivation and activity ideas check out the **#bethewave suggestions** to incorporate into your classwork and action planning.

Remember! Take time to explore what support local, national, or international organisations can offer your school.

Examples could include:

Becoming a Plastic Free School

Join the pupil led education programme run by [Surfers Against Sewage](#), designed to create positive environmental change and stop the use of single use plastic in our schools around the UK. Schools will carry out a number of activities including conducting a single use plastic audit and taking action to remove plastic items from their school for good, to challenging government and industry through pupil voice and campaigning.



Supporting the Marine Conservation Society

Help the Marine Conservation Society by carrying out their [Source to Sea Litter Quest](#). This involves collecting litter data from the beach, the street or in the local park. The data helps create campaigns for change, meaning your school help #bethewave of change on ocean pollution.

Taking part in World Ocean Day

[Celebrate World Ocean Day](#) by joining in with others around the world to take action to protect and restore our blue planet. Ideas and resources for action, including [youth initiatives](#) and how to [Plan an event](#) can be downloaded as well as information and opportunities from the Youth Advisory council.



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy

S