



Litter in School

Fact Sheet

- Most schools have a litter problem to some degree.
- Controlling litter and making sure that grounds are cleaned up regularly, should be a priority for schools.
- If your playground is covered with crisp packets and chocolate bar wrappers it can create a very bad impression of the whole school.
- A playground that is covered in litter makes parents and visitors think that the children don't care about the buildings, the grounds or each other.
- If children work and play in a littered school it doesn't encourage them to put their own rubbish in the bin: they may think that dropping litter is a normal thing to do if they see other people doing it.
- Some forms of litter – broken glass bottles and tin cans on the playing field, for example – can pose a serious safety hazard for anyone using the school grounds.
- Litter can also be harmful to visiting birds and wildlife.
- Litter bugs can be given an on-the-spot fine of £50 if they are caught.
- The law says that it is the schools' responsibility to make sure that its grounds are kept free of litter.
- If schools do not clean up their grounds after receiving a notice to do so, they can be taken to court and fined up to £2,500 per day until the litter is cleared.

