

Reducing plastic waste... Southridge is rising to the challenge!

Southridge First School has committed to becoming involved with the 'Eco bricks' campaign. An Eco brick is a reusable building block created by packing clean and dry used plastic densely into a plastic bottle. Eco bricks enable us to take personal responsibility for our plastic. The Eco bricks will then be collected by one of our parents and re-used in our local community at The Whitley Bay Community Allotment - 'The Secret Garden'. <http://www.communityallotment.org/>

Southridge School Council discussed getting involved with this campaign and would like you to collect your plastics and fill some plastic bottles (making an 'Eco brick') over this term and take them to your class teacher. The School Council will collect them all and ensure they are handed over to be used at The Secret Garden.



Making an EcoBrick

1. Choose a clean, dry bottle

We recommend starting with a simple-shaped bottle as it won't have any tricky areas (which if left un-stuffed leave weak air gaps). It must be clean and dry because any organic matter left in the bottle may decay, which could make the brick unstable and compromise the integrity of the build, likewise for your filler plastics.

2. Collect your filler materials

Any clean, dry, unrecyclable plastics can go in. Use soft plastics at the bottom as they will fill any uneven surfaces and prevent air gaps. It is wise to cut up harder plastics into smaller pieces so you won't be left with gaps (and they fit through the opening!). Please do not put metal, glass, paper or biodegradable/compostable plastics in your bottle, or any organic materials.

3. Grab a stick and start stuffing!

We recommend squashing the plastic down as you go with your stick (wooden spoon handle, broom handle, etc.) as it's much easier than doing so once the bottle is full. Mix hard and soft plastic as you go to avoid air gaps. Try squeezing your bottle; you shouldn't be able to if it's packed tight enough!

4. Weigh your bottle

As a rule of thumb, the minimum density should be about 0.3g/ml. Divide the ml of your bottle by 3 to find your target weight. If you haven't reached it, squash more plastic in! Then look for a building project in your area to donate it to.

