

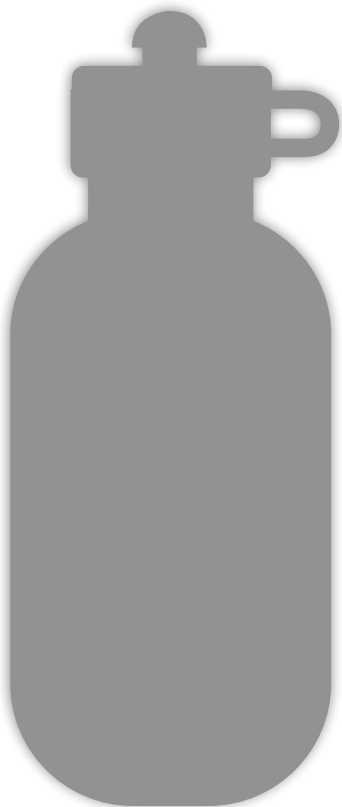
#waterinschools campaign

Plastic Never Goes Away - Drinking Water Taps for Schools Campaign

In the coming weeks we want every school in Ireland to support our campaign to get good quality drinking water for all schools in Ireland.



We want a healthy option.
Healthy for our bodies and
healthy for our environment.



We need to have access to taps that will enable us to refill our reusable bottles or cups so that we can cut out plastic and help every school go #plasticfree.

Our Environment
Our Health
Our Right



#waterinschools #plasticfree #plasticnevergoesaway

#waterinschools Campaign

We want good quality drinking water for all schools in Ireland. We need to be able to refill our bottles so that we can cut out plastic and help every school go #plasticfree

This campaign came about when students at Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna studied sand particles on the local beach for their Young Environmentalist “Plastic Never Goes Away” project. When they realised how much plastic the sand contained they decided we need to get away from plastic. They noticed a lot of plastic bottles at school so started there. They calculated that they can prevent 39,000 plastic bottles being used at their school per year if each of the 200 students had a refillable bottle and access to good quality drinking water. **Trouble is there are no drinking water taps suitable to refill bottles in the school.**

What is good drinking water? It is water that does not smell and taste of chemicals. It must be a suitable alternative to bottled water or it will not be used. We need basic filtered water.

There were guidelines for Mains Water Distribution Systems in new school buildings or upgrades brought in during 2014. For primary schools:

“The intention of this guidance document is to ensure that good quality water compliant with all required standards is available in all drinking taps and drinking water connections in primary schools.

It should be used by Design Teams and school authorities to assist them in the design of the mains water installation in new primary schools, extensions to existing primary schools and also on refurbishment and upgrade projects in schools involving the cold water services.

2.2.1 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

(a) *The incoming mains water supply shall feed outlets in the following locations:*

- *A dedicated drinking water tap at the sink unit in each classroom in the main school and in any Special Educational Needs Unit (SNU).*
- *External drinking water taps in the play area i.e. one per 150 pupils up to a maximum of 3 outlets*
- *A drinking water tap at the Staff Room sink*
- *A drinking water tap in the GP Room Servery*
- *A drinking water tap in a Multi-purpose Room which may be used for Medical examinations etc*
- *Connection to Water Boilers in the Staff Room and GP Room Servery*

The drinking water tap shall be in addition to the mixer tap at sink units.

<https://www.education.ie/en/School-Design/Technical-Guidance-Documents/Current-Technical-Guidance/TGD-030-1-Guidelines-on-Mains-Water-Distribution-Systems-in-Primary-Schools-First-Edition-June-2014-.pdf>

Guidelines for post-primary schools - <https://www.education.ie/en/School-Design/Technical-Guidance-Documents/Current-Technical-Guidance/TGD-031-1-Guidelines-on-Mains-Water-Distribution-Systems-in-Post-Primary-Schools-First-Edition-June-2014-.pdf>

What about old school buildings? Schools built before 2014?

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