

PLASTIC
Shoonya



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Hello from Plastic Shoonya!!

The Plastic Shoonya Schools movement is an initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainability in schools. The movement encourages schools to adopt environmentally-friendly practices and educate students on the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

The Plastic Shoonya Schools program typically involves a range of activities and initiatives, such as recycling programs, plastic-free policies, and educational resources. Students are encouraged to participate in these initiatives and take action towards reducing plastic waste in their daily lives.

The movement also fosters a sense of healthy competition and collaboration between schools, as schools can earn recognition and awards for their efforts towards sustainability. This can help promote a culture of environmental responsibility and inspire students to become advocates for sustainability in their communities.

Overall, the Plastic Shoonya Schools movement represents a growing global commitment to reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices in education. By empowering students to take action towards a more sustainable future, the movement is helping to create a generation of eco-conscious individuals who are committed to protecting our planet.

**"Join the movement towards
a Plastic Shoonya future!"**



Plastic Shoonya Schools



A school that is considered Plastic Shoonya is characterized by young individuals taking the lead in reducing the use of single-use plastics, while receiving assistance from their teachers, school administrators, and the broader community.

The goal of Plastic Shoonya Schools is not to completely eliminate plastics, but rather to encourage collaboration towards reducing plastic waste as much as possible, starting with at least two items. By doing so, students gain practical experience in plastic literacy and turn their knowledge into tangible actions, inspiring school-wide campaigns that are both engaging and educational.

Each school's journey towards becoming Plastic Shoonya will be unique, and as such, we offer a wide variety of resources to aid in the process.

To demonstrate progress, evidence of students' efforts must be submitted at each level.

Schools can register online and use the Plastic Shoonya Schools platform to submit their evidence.

[Click to register here](#)

There are three levels for pupils to complete



ACTIVATE: involves delving deeply into the topic of plastic and sharing this newfound knowledge with fellow students, teachers, parents, and the wider community.



ANALYZE: students identify problem plastics within their school and begin to develop solutions to address them.



ACTION: students learn how to effect positive change in their community by leading a dynamic campaign that encourages the reduction of single-use plastics both within their school and beyond.

Becoming Plastic Shoonya

For Pupils

Your pupils should be leading the way on this journey.

To ensure the success of the Plastic Shoonya Schools program, it is essential that your students take the lead on this journey. We recommend providing them with our interactive pupil workbook to guide them through the process. This workbook includes a wealth of information and links to worksheets that allow students to delve deeper into specific topics related to plastic waste reduction. Additionally, the workbook includes helpful tips and advice from Aarna, the founder of the Plastic Shoonya Movement, as well as other members of our team.



[Click to download the Pupil Workbook](#)



This symbol will guide you to specific resources for your pupils

For Teachers

Becoming Plastic Shoonya is a whole school endeavor.

Achieving Plastic Shoonya status is a school-wide initiative that requires the support and encouragement of all stakeholders, including teachers, school leaders, parents, and the wider community. To facilitate this process, we have created a comprehensive toolkit that outlines the key components of the program and offers guidance on how best to support your students and engage others. This toolkit also includes resources to help integrate plastic literacy into your school's curriculum. As a school leader, your role is to empower your students to take the lead on this issue and work towards creating a sustainable impact as a Plastic Shoonya School. We trust that you will find all the necessary resources and information within these pages to make this a reality.



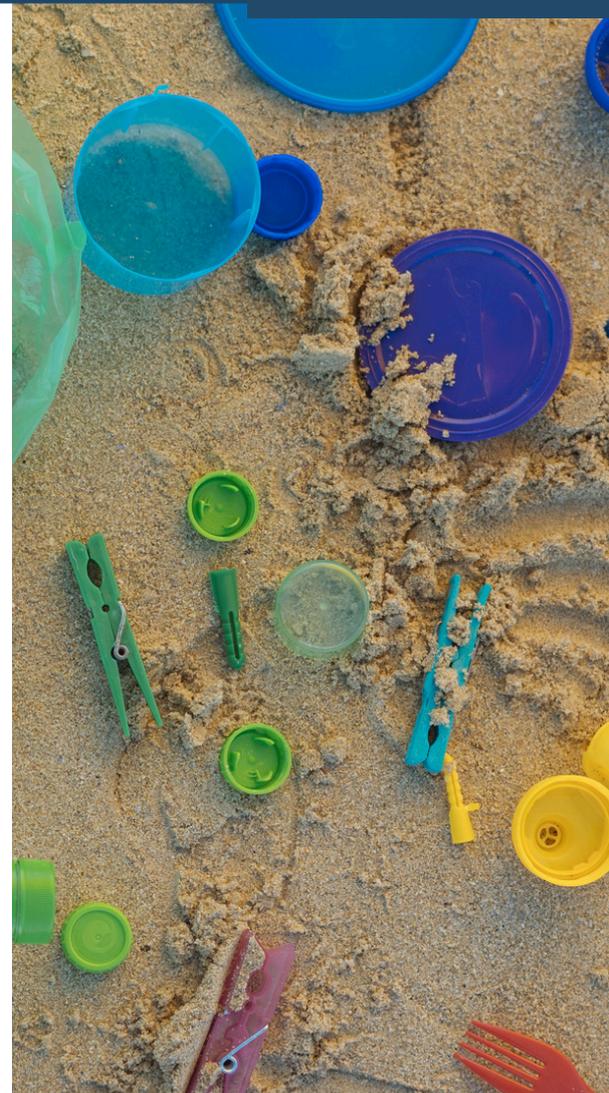
Rally the troops!

If you are leading the charge towards becoming a Plastic Shoonya School, you may be seeking enthusiastic students to spearhead this effort.

Consider partnering with an existing school group, such as an eco team, club, or particular class, to jumpstart your initiative. Alternatively, if you have been approached by a motivated student seeking your support, encourage them to recruit additional team members to strengthen their efforts.

If existing environmental groups or clubs are occupied with other projects, consider creating a new team specifically devoted to addressing single-use plastics.

Ideally, this team should represent a diverse cross-section of the student body, with members from each grade level. These representatives can help spread the word, inspire participation, and consult with their peers on potential solutions.



Remember to upload your evidence during each level to achieve your Plastic Shoonya School award



Level 1

- Raise awareness about your mission to become a Plastic Shoonya School
- Host a litter pick at your school
- Make a video to share why you're excited about becoming a Plastic Shoonya School



Level 2

- Complete the Plastic Shoonya Schools audit
- Create your action plan



Level 3

- Run your campaign to tackle at least 2 problem plastics in your school
- Share photo evidence
- Create a celebration video

Introduction to level 1

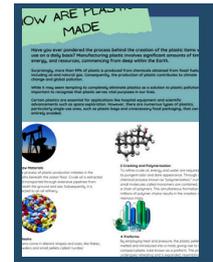
ACTIVATE involves a thorough exploration of plastics and the dissemination of this information to fellow students, teachers, parents, and the school community.

Students will delve into topics such as the origin and types of plastic, as well as the crucial importance of becoming Plastic Shoonya. Additionally, they will lead a litter pick to uncover the impact of plastic pollution on the local environment and create a platform for the school to stay informed and involved in the Plastic Shoonya journey. Students will share their mission with the wider Plastic Shoonya Schools network and brainstorm creative strategies to inspire their peers throughout the process.

To complete this level your pupils will need to -

- Raise awareness about their mission to become a Plastic Shoonya School
- Host a litter pick at your school
- Make a video to share why they're excited to become a Plastic Shoonya School

Pupil workbook resources -



How plastic is made



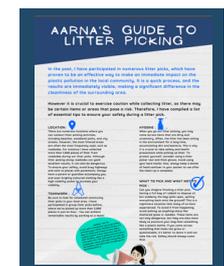
Lifecycle of a plastic bottle



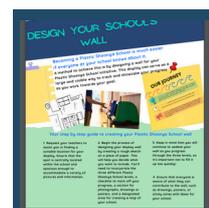
Different types of plastic



Recycling guide



Litter pick guide



Designing your Plastic Shoonya Schools wall

Raise awareness

Enable pupils to host an assembly or presentation

Hosting an assembly or workshop is an effective way to engage the entire student body and generate interest and enthusiasm for your Plastic Shoonya initiative. This presentation can be led by either teachers or students (or a combination of both for added fun!), and you may even consider inviting other members of the school community, such as parents and caregivers, to participate and expand your reach.

Ensure pupils have somewhere to create their Plastic Shoonya Schools wall

Can you find a good, central location in the school? Somewhere that has lots of footfall and where your pupils can easily update the wall

Help identify key stakeholders

Who do your pupils need to be onboard and motivate? Once you know who you need to inspire, you can decide on the level of engagement you would like to have with them.



[Download the assembly here](#)



[Check out page this page from the pupil workbook for more info](#)

Host a litter pick

Support with the logistics of organising the litter pick

Your pupils will need you to supervise the event and may need some help gathering everything they need (bags, gloves, litter pickers etc). If they are planning to run a bigger clean up, perhaps inviting parents/carers & community members to join, then you may be able to support by extending invitations, helping with timings and carrying out a risk assessment with them.



[Check out page this page from the pupil workbook for more info](#)

Make a video

Help your pupils create a video about why they want to make your school Plastic Shoonya

Brainstorm what to include in the video by asking why this issue feels so important to them, what impact they think they can have in your school and in your local community. If you are concerned about including pupils in the video, why not help them create a montage of photos and add a voiceover instead?



[Check out this page from the pupil workbook for more info](#)

Lessons 1 - 4 introduce plastic and all its properties so that your pupils can develop their own understanding about what makes plastic fantastic, and what makes it a big problem that we all need to tackle. Each resource is ready to deliver with a lesson plan, activity guidance or sheets, and a PowerPoint presentation included.

1. What are Plastics Pt 1

Investigate properties of materials to understand why plastic is so widely used.



2. What are Plastics Pt 2

Discover the 7 types of plastic and explore the science of polymerisation by making slime!



3. Where are plastics Pt 1

Follow the lifecycle of a plastic bottle and take part in a debate. Is plastic fantastic?



4. Where are Plastics Pt 2

Find out how plastic in the ocean can travel the world and the problems this can cause. Then, plan your own fieldwork to investigate plastic litter in your local environment.



Congratulations!
You've reached the end
of Level 1



Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

[Upload here](#)

Level 2 - Analyze

Introduction to level 2

AANALYZE is a level designed to help you and your students identify problem plastics in your school and prepare to take action!

During this phase, your pupils will explore how plastic enters the ocean and the consequences of plastic pollution on our society, communities, and natural surroundings. They will also learn about the 6Rs and begin to brainstorm ways to minimize plastic waste.

By using our plastic waste audit, you and your pupils will work together to investigate problematic plastics in your school, identifying the top two items to tackle and creating an action plan. They will share their discoveries and their intentions to tackle the issue.

To complete this stage your pupils will need to

- Complete the Plastic Shoonya Schools audit
- Create an action plan

Pupil workbook resources



Impact on Wildlife



5 Gyres



Audit



6 R's



Action Plan



Survey

Complete the Plastic Shoonya Schools audit

Work with a team of pupils to complete the plastic waste audit

The plastic waste audit is a tool that can be used to identify single-use plastics in various areas throughout the school, including canteens, classrooms, and bathrooms. While some of the data may be easily accessible, other information may require input from school staff members such as the head of catering, school business managers, or senior leaders.

To help build their leadership skills, encourage pupils to gather information from staff members, investigate waste management facilities on site, and collect data from order sheets. The audit tool includes helpful tips on how to collect data.

Your pupils can be a valuable source of knowledge about the use of single-use plastics at school. Consider encouraging them to conduct further investigations into waste streams that are not well understood, such as plastic waste generated from packed lunches.

[Download audit instructions & template here](#)

Create an action plan

Results and Action Planning

Assist your pupils in comprehending the outcomes of the audit and determine which plastic products they want to address. Which items will have the most significant impact if they are minimized? What other factors need to be taken into account, such as the cost to the school or the time required for implementation?

To assist them in finding the best solutions for your school, the student toolkit includes information about the 6Rs. They may require assistance in comprehending the various reduction methods and applying them to actions that they or the school can undertake.



Help distribute the social survey

The social survey provides an excellent opportunity to gain insight into the current views and opinions on plastic waste, while also amplifying the voices of pupils. Sharing the survey through various channels, such as the school website, social media, and newsletters, can help involve a large number of people and make the subsequent pupil-led campaigns more impactful. Don't forget to participate in the survey as well!

Increase ocean literacy

introduce your pupils to the captivating world of the ocean and its importance. By studying the marine environment, its vast array of organisms, and our reliance on it, pupils can cultivate a deep appreciation for the ocean and a drive to preserve it. Regardless of where we reside, we are all linked to the ocean and have a duty to safeguard it.



Engaging staff, parents & your wider community

Share the results of your audit

Spread the word about the audit findings by sharing them widely. If your school has a blog or social media presence, support your pupils in using these platforms to convey the results. In addition to informing the wider community, it's important to ensure that the school leadership team is aware of the results. Schedule a meeting between school leaders and your pupils to allow them to present the findings and initiate a dialogue about how to proceed.



Make sure you tag @PlasticShoonya and use the hashtag #PlasticShoonyaSchools

Share the action plan

Once your pupils have created their action plan, share it with school leadership team and stakeholders. Perhaps you could also ensure it goes out in the school newsletter. Your pupils will need everyone on board for their campaigns to be a success!

Host a movie screening

A great way to engage everyone is by screening a movie related to the topic. There are lots of great documentaries about the perils of single use plastics that will help inspire and educate.



Plastics Lesson 5 & 6

No matter where we are in the world, the plastic we use can cause a lot of problems if it finds its way into the ocean. These lessons will help your pupils learn more about the impact of plastic waste on marine life, and to consider how people might be affected by plastic production, consumption and pollution too.

5. What impact can plastics have Pt 1

Discover how plastic pollution in the ocean can cause trouble for marine life by learning about the food chains of some amazing sea creatures.

What impact can plastics have Part 1



6. What impact can plastics have Pt 2

Step into the shoes of people around the world to find out how plastics can impact humans and the planet.

What impact can plastics have Part 2



Congratulations!
You've reached the end
of Level 2

Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

[Upload here](#)

Introduction to level 3

The ACTION level provides an opportunity for your students to make a positive change by initiating thrilling campaigns to eliminate single-use plastic from your school and community.

Your pupils will learn how they can make an impact by drawing inspiration from some remarkable organizations across the globe.

Using their action plan, they will devise campaigns to address at least two of the problematic plastics in your school and share their findings and accomplishments throughout the process. They can even create a Plastic Shoonya Schools map of your school and the surrounding region to keep everyone up to date on their progress!

To complete this stage your pupils will need to

- Run a campaign to tackle at least two problem plastics in your school.
- Share photo evidence of plastic action e.g. reusable bottles in class
- Create a celebration video

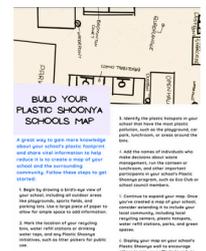
Pupil workbook resources



Building effective campaigns



How to write an advocacy letter



Build your Plastic Shoonya Schools map

Supporting your pupils

Run a campaign

Support pupils in showcasing their work via school website/social media/press

You can make sure that the efforts and hard work invested during the Plastic Shoonya Schools program are recognized and celebrated by the entire school and community. Local newspapers are always eager to share positive news, especially related to youth and the environment. Additionally, you can inform the wider Plastic Shoonya Schools community about your achievements by tagging your social media posts with @PlasticShoonya, along with the hashtag #PlasticShoonyaSchools. However, before doing so, ensure that you adhere to your school's social media policy.

Support your pupils' campaigns

Enabling pupils to take charge of campaigns is fundamental to achieving Plastic Shoonya School status. This approach builds students' leadership abilities, decision-making skills, and confidence in taking actions that benefit their community.

As they create and implement their campaign plans, it is essential to provide support and motivation. Identifying possible obstacles and helping to address them could entail promoting their initiatives through media interviews or coordinating meetings with local officials.

Create a video

Help your pupils create their celebratory video

Show us how your school has reduced single-use plastic by taking us on a tour! You can even introduce some of the amazing pupils and teachers who contributed to this effort. Try to keep the video short, around 3 minutes at most. Please ensure that you have obtained the required parental permission before sharing any videos online.

[Check out this page in the pupils workbook for more info](#)



Share photo evidence

Designate a group of photographers to document the progress of the Plastic Shoonya campaigns as they unfold.

Ensure that they have access to a school camera and receive guidance on its usage. Your pupils will need to take photos of the plastic reduction initiatives they have implemented as evidence. For instance, if you have replaced disposable cups with reusable water bottles in the classroom, share a photo with us!



What next ?

Encourage pupils to continue their advocacy beyond their certification

Don't stop your efforts to reduce plastic in your school just because you have achieved the Plastic Shoonya School status! You now have the resources and knowledge to identify and address other types of problem plastics and continue to reduce them. You can also consider ways to extend your positive impact beyond the school and into the wider community.

Plastics Lesson 7 & 8

As you build your action campaigns for reducing plastic waste, you and your pupils need a strong understanding of the different options for managing waste, and which ones are the best! The following resources introduce the waste hierarchy (the 6 Rs), before supporting pupils to work together to design and deliver powerful campaigns to affect change at school.

7. What can I do? Pt. 1

Learn more about the waste hierarchy and how the 6Rs can help reduce plastic waste, then be inspired to build your own campaigns to apply them.. No matter where we are in the world, the plastic we use can cause



8. What can I do? Pt. 2

Review the success of school wide campaigns and the impact they had on plastic consumption at school.

Congratulations!
You've reached the end
of Level 3

Don't forget to
upload your
evidence !

[Upload here](#)

About

Aarna Srivastav is a remarkable young climate warrior who, at a young age has made a significant impact in the battle against single-use plastic. Recognizing the urgent need to protect the environment, Aarna founded the Plastic Shoonya movement, engaging and educating children across India about the dangers of plastic waste. Her passion, dedication, and accomplishments have not only inspired thousands of young individuals to join her cause but have also garnered national and international recognition. Aarna's unwavering commitment to creating a sustainable future is a testament to the power of youth activism and serves as an inspiration for generations to come.



Let's Go
PLASTIC
Shoonya



What does Plastic Shoonya mean?

Plastic Shoonya is a phrase created by Let's Go Shoonya to describe a person, school or business that understands the plastic problem and is taking action to do something about it. The aim is to start reducing plastic waste, not strive for zero plastic. Progress is more important than perfection.

What is a 'Plastic Shoonya School'?

A Plastic Shoonya School is one which has worked as a whole community to reduce its plastic waste- with pupils leading the way to inspire change and motivate action.

What evidence do we need to submit to achieve Plastic Shoonya Schools status?

In each stage of the Plastic Shoonya journey, you can submit evidence towards achieving your award. This evidence can be in a variety of forms (photos, videos, updated policies, lesson plans, quotes, newspaper clippings, pupils work, tweets, audit results) and we welcome your creativity here. However, we do have a few minimum requirements for each stage.

How do we apply to become a Plastic Shoonya School?

[sign up here](#)