



FACT SHEETS!

SCHOOL LITTER

WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter is anything dropped on the ground that is not supposed to be there. It includes;

- sweet papers
- cigarette butts
- chewing gum
- dog fouling
- unwanted food
- apple cores
- glass
- plastic bottles

Litter is unpleasant, it can be dangerous, it can attract insects, rats and mice and often it is not biodegradable, which means that it does not rot away naturally.

HOW DOES LITTER GET INTO OUR SCHOOLS?

- Sweet wrappers, apple cores and crisp packets may be left by children, adults, or by younger brothers or sisters who visit the school.
- Litter can be blown in from outside or thrown over the fence.
- A full bin may be toppled over emptying its contents across the playground.



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WHY SHOULD WE KEEP OUR SCHOOL CLEAN?

Every day litter has to be cleared away. In school this may be the responsibility of the cleaners and caretakers, on the streets this is the responsibility of Belfast City Council.

A school with a serious litter problem:

- causes complaints from local residents and businesses,
- put visitors off,
- upset staff and pupils
- be dangerous, due to broken glass or sharp objects.

It is important that we keep our school and the grounds litter free so that we create a good impression and show visitors to the school that we care about our environment.

LITTER ATTRACTS RATS

FACT!

Experts estimate that there are now 60 million rats in the UK. That's one for every person.

There are so many rats because there is litter and un-wanted food on our streets.



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FACT!

The Black Death killed almost one third of the population in 1348. Rats are commonly blamed for carrying it.

Rats carry risks of other diseases such as Tuberculosis and Foot and Mouth disease.

FACT!

Experts say that if people put their litter in the bin the rat population could decrease by up to 60-70% virtually over night.

FACT!

Cleansing Services visit schools in Belfast. The team explain all the problems associated with dropping litter.

Captain Cleanup is Belfast City Council's anti-litter hero whose mission is to clean up our city. His catchphrase is '**Littering. It's not a good look**'. He believes that if we all did our bit and always use the litter bin then we would have a cleaner city.