

Water Reuse Week 2026

14th – 20th September 2026 · ready-to-run activities for KS1 & KS2 teachers

“Every drop can have another job.”

How to use this pack

Everything here is ready to run during Water Reuse Week — no preparation beyond a photocopier. Pick the Key Stage you teach: each has a one-page teacher guide and a photocopiable pupil sheet. Introduce the week with the ideas below, then finish it with the whole-class pledge and Champion certificates on the final pages.

What is water reuse?

Water reuse means giving clean water another suitable job instead of treating every drop as waste — like collecting rainwater for the garden, or using cooled cooking water on plants. **Water saving** means using less; **water reuse** gives suitable water another job. A strong plan does both.

Keep it safe – adult check required

Please do not ask pupils to taste collected water. Avoid reusing water containing cleaning products, chemicals, oil, raw-meat residue or bodily fluids. Wash hands after outdoor investigations. Any plumbing or stored-water system must be managed by qualified adults.

Your week at a glance

Day	Focus	What to do
Mon	Wonder & vocabulary	Introduce water reuse; begin KS1 Water Detectives
Tue	Where water goes	Explore reuse journeys; talk about saving vs reuse
Wed	Measure & investigate	Run the KS2 School Water Audit
Thu	Create & persuade	Design proposals and posters
Fri	Act & celebrate	Sign the class pledge; award certificates

Words to use this week

reuse — use again for another job
mains water — clean water from the tap
rainwater harvesting — collecting rain from a roof for later
greywater — water already used in sinks or baths (needs care)
water audit — a check of where water is used

Extend the week (optional)

Run a poster competition with a bold water-wise message, send the five-day challenge home with families, or finish with a quick class quiz. Share pupils' work using [#WaterReuseWeekUK](https://twitter.com/WaterReuseWeekUK).

Water Detectives



45–60 minutes · Science · Geography · Maths · Speaking & listening

LEARNING INTENTION

To notice where water is used and suggest safe ways to care for it.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can name water uses, sort saving and reuse ideas, and choose one safe action.

You will need

Clipboards and pencils, the Water Detective pupil sheet (next page), and an agreed area of school to explore.

Run the activity

- **Starter (5 min)** Mime a water job — washing, drinking, watering, cleaning. The class guesses each one.
- **Explore (15 min)** Walk an agreed area of school. Spot taps, toilets, water bottles, plants, drains and gutters.
- **Sort (10 min)** Talk about each use: is it saving, reuse, both — or not safe?
- **Create (15 min)** Complete the pupil sheet and draw one improved water habit.
- **Plenary (5 min)** Each child finishes the sentence: “I can help water by...”

Questions to ask

- Where did this water come from?
- Does this job need clean drinking water?
- Could this water safely do another job?
- Who should we tell if we notice a leak?

SUPPORT

Use picture prompts, partner talk and adult scribing. Offer a choice of two safe actions.

STRETCH

Add labels showing where water comes from and goes next. Explain why a source suits one job but not another.

→ Photocopiable pupil sheet on the next page.

Teacher notes

Water Detective



Look, talk, tick and draw.

Name: _____

Class: _____

1. Where do we use water?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Drinking | ☐ Washing hands |
| ☐ Flushing toilets | ☐ Cleaning |
| ☐ Cooking | ☐ Watering plants |
| ☐ Other: _____ | |

2. Save it or reuse it?

Write S for save, R for reuse, or X for not safe.

Water choice	S / R / X
Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.	_____
Collect rainwater in a butt for the garden.	_____
Use leftover drinking water on a classroom plant.	_____
Drink water collected from a puddle.	_____
Tell an adult about a dripping tap.	_____

3. Draw your best water-wise idea

My idea helps because _____

Remember: never drink collected or reused water. An adult checks what is safe.

Design a Water-Wise School



60–90 minutes · Science · Geography · Maths · English · Design

LEARNING INTENTION

To use evidence from a water audit to propose safe, practical improvements.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can collect useful data, tell saving from reuse, and explain and prioritise a solution.

You will need

The School Water Audit pupil sheet (next page), a plan of the school if available, a measuring jug and timer for adult-supervised flow checks, pencils and graph paper.

Run the activity

- **Engage (5 min)** Ask: does every water job at school need clean drinking water?
- **Investigate (20 min)** In groups, audit one zone — classroom, toilets, kitchen/dining, playground or garden.
- **Analyse (15 min)** Tally findings. Separate quick habits from changes that need adult planning.
- **Design (20 min)** Write a proposal: problem, evidence, solution, safety check, expected benefit.
- **Pitch (15 min)** Present for 60 seconds. The class chooses actions by impact, ease and safety.

Fair-test option: tap flow (adult-supervised)

Measure the water flowing into a jug for exactly 5 seconds, then multiply by 12 to estimate litres per minute. Compare taps. Don't waste the water — use it to fill the jug for cleaning or plants.

Assessment prompt

Pupils explain their thinking with sentence stems: *“Our evidence shows... · We propose... · This is safe because... · It will help by...”*

→ Photocopiable pupil sheet on the next page.

Teacher notes

School Water Audit & Design



Work only in the area your teacher has approved.

Names:

Zone:

Part 1 · Audit your zone

What to check	Tally / notes	Possible action
Taps left running or dripping		
Toilets that keep running		
How bottles and cups are filled		
Water used for cleaning		
Plants and garden watering		
Roof, gutters and where rain runs		

Part 2 · Design a safe improvement

The problem we noticed: *(what is happening? where?)*

Our evidence: *(what did we count or measure?)*

Our solution: *(a habit, sign, device or system)*

Safe & suitable: *(why the water fits this job / what must adults check?)*

Expected benefit: *(save mains water, reduce run-off, help plants...)*

This is: ☐ saving ☐ reuse ☐ both

Our 60-second pitch begins: *"We propose..."*

Our Water-Wise Pledge

We believe water is precious. During Water Reuse Week, and afterwards.
We will use it thoughtfully and safely.

We promise to...

- Turn taps off properly.
- Report leaks and running toilets to an adult.
- Use only the water we need.
- Reuse suitable water safely — when an adult agrees.
- Share what we learn with our families.

Our class also promises to... ..

Signed by our class

Class

Date



Water-Wise Champion

This certificate is proudly awarded to

.....

for thoughtful learning and positive action during
Water Reuse Week 2026 — and for helping
every drop have another job.

Awarded by **Lutz Johnen, Chairman of the UK WRA**

Date

ukwra.org.uk · [#WaterReuseWeekUK](https://twitter.com/WaterReuseWeekUK)