**How do you think litter affects the image of our school?**

* It creates a bad image for the places that we work, live and play in
* Its disrespectful to the school and our neighbours
* It looks unsightly and can smell
* It could be a potential fire hazard
* It could be a potential health hazard
  + Rats and bacteria can live and breed in litter
  + Students, staff and visitors could slip or trip on discarded litter
* To visitors to the school, it looks like that we don’t care for our environment
* It can be dangerous to wildlife
  + Wildlife can become trapped in litter, particularly discarded plastic bags and cans
  + Can exit for long periods of time before degrading
* It can block our drains and pollute our rivers
* It can take time and be expensive to clear up

Schools have a duty to deal with litter and in extreme cases can be fined.

It is a criminal offence to drop litter (including chewing gum) and you can be fined.

**There are many assemblies that refresh students’ minds about the subject of littering but do you think that the teachers speaking and holding these assemblies are wasting their time as litter still crowds the playgrounds in the school?**

How many assemblies have there been since the start of term, how many were there last year?

I think assemblies are possibly the quickest way to get a consistent message to as many of the students in the school as possible. When they are done well it usually has an impact for four to six weeks. I never feel it is a waste of my time or the students to talk about litter in assemblies, we need to encourage as many students as possible to be responsible, if we don’t try then we are effectively giving up. I don’t believe in giving up.

**Where do you think the biggest problem with litter is around the school?**

The school playing fields and tennis courts seem to be the biggest areas of concern. Bins are provided but still don’t seem to be used as much as they should be. The wind also sends some dropped litter into the doorways and corners of the school so it builds up there as well.

**What is the biggest problem that your cleaning team faces and do you think it is preventable?**

Our biggest problem is litter and pens on the floor and also the graffiti on desks and walls. I think this could possibly be prevented if eating and drinking whilst in classrooms was not allowed.

Another idea would be at the end of each lesson if students were to pick up any rubbish or pens from the floor area where they are sitting, this would help us a lot.

**Why are there no recycling bins outside and would it be possible to get some?**

* There are recycling bins inside the school:
  + For paper in classrooms and offices
  + For plastic bottles in staff rooms and kitchen
  + For batteries and printer cartridges by the Site Care office
    - All under the control of staff
* We have previously had recycle points outside but these had to be removed as ordinary litter, including old sandwiches were being put in these bins
  + Caused issues as the recycling companies can’t collect mixed waste
  + Too time consuming and messy for the caretakers to try and sort through the bins

**How do you feel when you see someone litter and what are the consequences for them?**

From a personal viewpoint I feel very disappointed and a bit cross. Everyone has to make a conscious decision to drop litter in or out of school. Dropping litter is irresponsible and harms the environment. If we all stopped dropping litter think of the savings, in both time and money, both around the school and in the country as a whole. Consequences range from asking the person who dropped it to pick it up, or giving them a litter picker and picking up litter.

**Are other jobs overlooked at times if you and your team have to spend time picking up litter in the school?**

Yes. Jobs are prioritised throughout the day, but in order to keep the school a safe environment for students and staff a great deal of time has to be spent on clearing litter from the site. There are only so many hours in the day, so some things do get delayed sometimes.

**How long does it take to clean the school each day and how much of that is time spent clearing litter?**

We get 20 minutes to clean a classroom i.e. pick litter and pens etc. hoover, empty bins, clean graffiti off of desks and walls, and wipe any ledges. As you can appreciate this is not long, but if we did not have to pick up litter etc. then this would give us more time to keep the school clean and give yourselves a better environment to learn in.

**Why do you think students litter and how do you think they should be dealt with when they do?**

* There may be some students who have no respect for their school and the environment
* We have worked with the Student Council to ensure there are enough bins around the school both inside and outside and that the bins are situated in the main places that the students are such as by the picnic tables and seating areas
* In the Summer the large wheelie bins are brought on to the school field – we can’t have permanent bins on site due to the field being used for PE
* The site team regularly empty the bins
* Detentions which consist of litter picking
* It is a criminal offence to drop litter including chewing gum and individuals can be fined
* Schools have a legal duty to deal with litter and in extreme cases can also be fined

**How do you think you could change students’ views on littering?**

By convincing them to be responsible and making a commitment to not drop litter. In previous years we were told that it was because there weren’t enough bins. We added more, we have had a poster campaign around the school and we have had assemblies about litter and the damage it causes. I am sure that many of you don’t drop litter, those that do need to consider the consequences of their actions.

**Why do you think students drop litter?**

I don’t have a definitive answer to that. We have been working with the Student Council to make sure there are enough bins around the school. We even make sure that the bins are emptied regularly so as to have enough space in them to accommodate the litter.

There have been various litter initiatives posters and displays to remind people not to do it, so why do you think?

**What would the cleaning team do if there was not a litter problem in the school?**

If we did not have a litter problem in the school it would allow my staff to work a little longer in the toilet areas, which I feel is needed, and we can then keep these areas fresh and clean all day for you. Also, we could possibly do more high level cleaning and keep your school to the high standard that is expected for yourselves to work in.