**Plastic Recycling Process**

**Key Stage 2**

**NC references**

Working Scientifically

* identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments

Properties and changes in materials

* compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets
* demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes

**Learning objectives**

Understand and describe the process by which plastic is recycled

Consider whether all recycling is positive

**Teaching ideas**

Link to Kids Against Plastic Recycling Process activity

**Explore and predict**

Have a range of plastic items available for children to explore/ sort into those that can be recycled or show a bag of plastic items that are ready to be recycled.

Question: How are these items recycled?

Encourage children to predict what happens to the plastic items when they are recycled.

Children could sketch their predictions about the recycling process.

Children might interact with the plastics, considering how they may need to be sorted prior to recycling.

**Order**

Give children the statements/ pictures about the plastic recycling process and ask them to put them into order, rehearsing and reciting the recycling process.

Use videos to support this learning, such as that found at the Recycle Now website:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/how-is-it-recycled/plastics>

Link to learning about changing state: What changes happen to the plastic? Is this process reversible?

Children could present their learning as a presentation, written explanation or flow chart.

**Extend**

Find out how much of the UK’s plastic is recycled. Present as a pie chart.

Question: Is recycling always positive?

Watch *the Kids Against Plastic ‘Talk for Schools’* video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLQN2Y4v1bI>

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using plastic?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of recycling?

How can we try to reduce plastic pollution caused by plastic that is not disposed of properly?

**Resources**

*Kids Against Plastic* Plastic Recycling Process resource

**Next steps**

Make a ‘Plastic Promise’. Which products could the children refuse to use in future to help reduce plastic use?

Children could research how companies are trying to reduce the use of single-use plastic, creating posters or presentations to publicise these moves.

Start your own ‘Kids Against Plastic’ campaign. Which plastic products do we want to reduce the use of in our school?