

**PE1437/C**

**Public Petition No PE01437**

**Written Response from Falkirk Council**

**1. What are your views on what the petition seeks?**

It is felt that a distinction should be made between school playgrounds at Primary schools those at Secondary Schools as they are very different in terms of the supervision of pupils, number of pupils and quantity of recyclate produced.

Falkirk Council does not feel that the provision of recycling facilities within Primary School playgrounds should be made mandatory. It is felt that this would place the emphasis on Recycling rather than the other waste **minimisation options higher up the 'Waste Hierarchy' i.e. Reduce and Reuse.** It would be impractical to require all schools to provide recycling facilities in their playgrounds as such bins are expensive and many schools currently struggle to afford enough litter bins.

Primary Schools are good at coming up with their own solutions and through the Eco Schools programme this is something that the children get involved with and then feel a sense of ownership. There are many potential solutions to the litter and waste issue and although on some occasions this may include installing a recycling bin in the playground other schools may decide to minimise their waste by reusing water bottles, bringing in waste free snacks **and getting in the habit of 'taking their litter home' by using recycling facilities** in a central location, possibly inside the school.

It is felt that encouraging Secondary Schools to provide recycling facilities would be more meaningful as these pupils produce more recyclable waste than primary school pupils. In addition they are at a stage in life of making **their own choices so it would be good if 'Recycling on the Go' facilities were** provided at school so that they can get into the habit of recycling at school and then continue to recycle at home, on the street and at other facilities such as cinemas, sports venues etc.

On the issue of a national survey of waste education it is felt that this would be a very positive step. We are aware that a lot of excellent work on waste minimisation is undertaken in Falkirk schools by teachers and other non teaching staff and visitors. We are aware of similar good work at some other Local Authorities but a national survey would help to evaluate and provide a baseline for the whole of Scotland. It would be worth enquiring with SEPA as they did undertake some research on this topic some years ago.

Falkirk already has a well established recycling collection from all Schools which has been in place since 2003 and would welcome any national support for enhancing this provision in the coming years.

**2. With reference to the point made by the petitioner are there limits to the amount of recycled material that can be collected from schools, and if so why?**

There are no restrictions on the amount of recycled material that can be collected from schools, but at present no arrangements are in place for the collection of food waste. This will be reviewed in line with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and implemented where possible.