

Water Bottles

We have had a few questions recently regarding the safety aspects of the use of water bottles in schools. The questions stemmed from an incident at a primary school when a pupil suffered serious choking after swallowing a top. However, the water bottle in question was the shop-bought variety which is not designed for re-filling.

The water bottles available for purchase from the Healthy Schools Programme are of a sturdier type and are specifically designed for re-use. Nonetheless, in order to avoid the kind of incident described above it might be advisable to warn pupils not to use their teeth to attempt to pull the top from any type of bottle. (We also have a supply of spare tops which schools can purchase at 20p each).

The County Health and Safety team advise that schools should have a procedure in place for the bottles to be cleaned daily, either by the school or by parents at home. (We understand that Milton Fluid is a good thing to use to sterilise tops).

Our water bottles are dishwasher safe.

In general the main aim of the bottles is to encourage children to drink more water which is essential to their health and well-being. If you would like more information about Water in Schools or a free sample of the bottle we sell at cost price get in touch.

Does your school buy bottles of water with sports tops to sell to pupils who then use them to refill with water whilst at school?

There has recently been an incident at a primary school where a pupil suffered a serious choking incident when the sealant top was swallowed. It is thought that the pupil pulled off the top with his/her teeth.

Fortunately, due to prompt action by the Head Teacher, the correct first aid treatment was applied and a tragedy was prevented.

Such water bottles are designed for single use and should only be used as such in schools.

If you have purchased sturdier sports bottles for pupil use, please ensure that you have a procedure in place for the bottles to be cleaned daily, either by the school or by parents at home.

Yvonne Jennings, Health & Safety Adviser

