



## **DRINKING WATER PROVISION IN SCHOOLS**

### **Introduction**

As part of the Government Food in Schools Programme, Kent Healthy Schools are rolling out a Tool Kit to help schools review their current water provision. This guide is designed by AquAid with KCC to assist in water provision in schools and attempts to simplify the process.

It has been known for a long time that water provision in schools is integral to improved performance and behaviour. As such children's access to a hygienic water supply will now be monitored through Ofsted inspections. The new Government targets and suggested solutions have been set out as follows:

- Why We Need Water in Schools
- Food in School - Water Guidance
- Water Cooler Options
- Funding
- Information on AquAid
- Contacts and References

AquAid are a commercial company that work in partnership with Christian Aid and Pump Aid. There is no obligation to use AquAid as your supplier but if we can help or advise schools in any way we are more than willing to do so.

We hope that you find this guide useful. For more information, to discuss tailored solutions for your school and to arrange a free site survey, please call AquAid Franchising on 01223-508109 or contact your Healthy Schools Programme Co-ordinator.

## Why We Need Water in Schools

Encouraging children to drink water is not a new concept. When children do not drink enough research has shown that there are implications on long term health, performance and concentration. Here is what other people have thought about the subject:

**Children are our heritage and our future. If we neglect to supply them with adequate high quality water, we run the risk of negating the importance of liquid intake. Our children's health has to be our number one priority.**

*Lord Sebastian Coe*

**Drinking water facilities in school are totally unacceptable. Children need to drink water during the day to stay healthy, but a toilet is not an appropriate place for drinking water so they are not drinking enough.**

*Dr Martin Schweiger, Public Health Consultant, Leeds Health Authority*

**Water Coolers in Schools are a good idea. It is essential that children have access to a clean water supply, especially after physical activity and during hot weather.**

*Dr Mike Prendergast, Consultant Paediatrician, MB, CHB, BCH, FRCPCH*

**Research shows that an intervention strategy is desirable. Where schools have improved water provision and have developed an effective strategy for promoting water, pupils consume more water on a regular basis. Providing water promotes good health amongst pupils and staff and reduces tiredness, irritability and distraction from thirst.**

*Healthy Schools*

**A new report revealed that healthy school meals and water lead to better behaved pupils who are more alert in class. We found that pupils who ate meals made with fresh, unprocessed ingredients and who have access to DRINKING water have better concentration, improved attention spans and are less likely to be hyperactive. They were also found to be calmer and more alert in class.**

*Soil Association and Business in the Community*

*The report - which recorded the views of education chiefs from 13 local authorities*

AquAid provide water coolers for schools in Kent. Our customers quote:

**We know the importance of drinking water and have two water coolers inside and two fountains outside, we bring bottles to school and fill them up so we can drink to keep being active learners all through the day.**

*Mrs Jenny Worthington, St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School*

**Our pupils and staff are drinking a lot more water since installing six plumbed in water coolers. We are very happy with the service provided by AquAid and having water coolers has caused no disruption in the classroom.**

*Dinah Surfleet, Finance Officer Staplehurst Junior School*

## Food in School - Water Guidance

The Government Water Provision guidance will support your school in reviewing and improving current provision in water consumption. Schools can play their part in the provision of drinking water through:

- Providing good quality water
- Providing water free of charge
- Permitting access to drinking water when required
- Ensuring that nobody is denied access to water by reason of any disability
- Ensuring that hygienic, modern water sources are available and maintained
- Promoting good habits of water consumption throughout the day and in particular following exercise and in warm weather
- Raising water awareness and consumption in school and the local community
- Inclusion in the Whole School Food Policy and integration into Healthy School activities

*Food in Schools Tool Kit,  
Healthy School Programme*

AquAid can provide schools with:

- High quality water coolers that filter 99.99% of drinking water impurities
- Maintenance twice a year with a 24/48 free emergency call out
- Free site survey to ensure water coolers are accessible and additional plumbing work is kept to a minimum
- Sport water bottles for pupils
- A sample press release about the importance of water and your school commitment
- Links to appropriate websites
- Professional speakers to talk to your pupils and help integrate the importance of water into the National Curriculum

# Water Cooler Options

## Point of Use Water Coolers (P.O.U.)

These are by far the most popular choice for water provision in Schools. These are water coolers that are fed by the mains water supply and then the water is filtered before being chilled. The main advantages are:

- **A fixed annual cost regardless of consumption**
- **99.99% of impurities are removed by filtration**
- **Installation is generally simple and usually at no extra cost**
- **On average it costs around £2 - £3 PER PUPIL, PER ANNUM**
- **No storage problems and a constant supply of quality water**

**Drinking water should be a pleasant experience for pupils, rather than one to be endured or avoided.**

*Healthy Schools*

**Research has shown that this type of provision is popular with users.**

*Healthy Schools*

**Since installing P.O.U. coolers, staff and pupils are drinking much more water. We have been able to cover part of the costs through selling sports bottles to pupils at a profit.**

*Dinah Surfleet, Finance Officer, Staplehurst Junior School*

## Bottle-fed Water Coolers

These generally dispense spring water via a 19-litre bottle sited on the top of the cooler. The disadvantages are:

- **Unknown costs as consumption fluctuates**
- **Costs for high usage schools can be expensive**
- **Space is required for storage of full and empty bottles**
- **Weekly/Fortnightly deliveries required**

**Bottle fed coolers with hot and cold taps are popular in staff rooms. AquAid supply rent free bottle fed coolers with every 4 P.O.U ordered.**

## Water Fountains

These are generally regarded as being outdated and are often sited near school toilets or playgrounds. The disadvantages are:

- **Unhygienic and unappealing to pupils**
- **Bottles cannot be filled from the fountain**
- **They do not dispense chilled or filtered water**

## Funding

Depending on funding required, there are a number of different approaches open to schools. Your LEO can help explore what budgets are available to you and additional budgets available to you if ordered through your cluster group.

Current AquAid customers have successfully funded coolers through:

- Core school funding
- Selling sport bottles at a profit
- PTA events

**As part of our commitment to schools, P.O.U rental prices will be reduced in year three for term of contract. Prices can also be reduced by up to 50% if schools order in bulk through their cluster group. The price includes sanitisation twice a year, maintenance and free installation (subject to no additional plumbing costs). A free site survey can be arranged to ensure optimal location.**

Please see below for further sources of funding:

- Big Lottery Fund - [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)
- Awards for All Funding – [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)
- Business in the Community – [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)
- Children’s Fund – [www.cypu.gov.uk](http://www.cypu.gov.uk)
- The Community Foundation Network – [www.communityfoundations.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk)
- Education Action Zones – [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk)
- Health Action Zones – [www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)

## Information on AquAid

AquAid are a national company with 34 offices across the UK. We have been promoting the '**Waters Cool in Schools**' campaign for several years now and already provide affordable, quality water solutions for thousands of schools nationwide.

AquAid were also involved in a trial in Sandwell where all Junior schools were given P.O.U. coolers. Results were very positive and have been used in the White paper produced by the Government in the *Food for Schools* programme. A report of the research carried out in Sandwell can be downloaded from: [http://webwell.sandwell.gov.uk/upload/Evaluation\\_report.doc](http://webwell.sandwell.gov.uk/upload/Evaluation_report.doc)

AquAid work in partnership with 3 charities which support water related issues in the UK and the Third World:

### Christian Aid

AquAid donate 40 pence from every 19-litre bottle of spring water sold to help fund Third World water projects. To date we have given **£1.3 MILLION**, which has helped save around **130,000** children's lives in some of the poorest countries around the world.

### Pump Aid

Every 4 P.O.U. water coolers rented from AquAid enables an elephant pump to be built in a village or school in some of the poorest countries worldwide. This creates a tangible bond between the school that have rented a water cooler and the school receiving an elephant pump. How much communication the two communities share is down to you. You will however:

- **Have a plaque with your school name on the elephant pump**
- **Receive thank you letters from the recipient school once the pump has been installed**
- **Receive a Certificate of Pump Sponsorship (and photograph) of the actual pump that you helped to fund**

Also,

- **Pump Aid can present a lecture to pupils covering all aspects of the programme**
- **Communication between the schools can be continued and expanded upon if you wish. This is an excellent chance to increase pupils' awareness of Third World poverty issues. The DOE are very keen to involve extra curricula activity as part of their Healthy Schools Programme and Citizenship**

AquAid were also one of the sponsors for the recent Live 8 concert highlighting the '**Make Poverty History**' campaign.

AquAid supply local businesses, organisations and homes and offer a variety of options in order to meet individual needs for water provision. We supply bottle fed coolers and plumbed-in coolers to rent or purchase. All coolers can be: hot and cold; cold only; desk top; or free standing. We also supply plastic cups, cones and/or sports bottles to ensure accessibility of the water throughout the day. **Schools can order sports bottles from AquAid at cost, to sell onto pupils.**

As part of our service promise all staff are trained by the consultant microbiologist to the BWCA in water hygiene and sanitation techniques. All staff are also police checked and wear a uniform. We offer a fortnightly delivery service and a free 24/48 hour emergency call out for all your maintenance and water needs.

## **Contacts and References**

AquAid Franchising  
51 Chesterton Road  
Cambridge CB3 9EY  
01223-508109  
[www.aquaid.co.uk](http://www.aquaid.co.uk)

Food in Schools  
[www.foodinschools.org](http://www.foodinschools.org)

Water is Cool in School  
[www.wateriscoolinschool.co.uk](http://www.wateriscoolinschool.co.uk)

The Water Health Alliance  
[www.waterforhealth.org.uk](http://www.waterforhealth.org.uk)

Water UK  
[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)