

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School,
Yardley,
Birmingham,
B25 8QL

Earth Ambassadors evidence for Ocean-Friendly Schools Award Section 3

Wed 22/05/2024

Dear Jess Phillips,

We are the Year 6 Earth Ambassadors after-school club at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School. We are writing to request that you make it a law that washing machines have microfiber filters installed when being made.

We have been researching different microfiber washing machine filters and how they stop microfibers from harming the planet. Our work this year has counted towards the Ocean-Friendly School Award that is run by the Marine Conservation Society. As part of the award we were encouraged to write to our local MP to ask for change in the laws to help reduce the issue of microfibers in the environment.

While we were having fun researching this issue, we carried out an investigation where we shook plastic bottles each with a different material in. The three different materials were fleece, polyester and cotton. We used a magnifying glass to help identify which material produced the most microfibers. The material

that produced the most microfibers was fleece, which is commonly used in clothing.

Many people throughout the world do not know about the dangers of microfibers in the food chain. Our food from the sea may contain microfibers that we cannot see so this means we are 'eating our wardrobe'! We came up with the conclusion that washing machines should have a microfiber filter installed in them whilst they are being made. The current option is that the public have to pay roughly £70 for every 90 washes using a filter that is stuck on the side of the machine. And the question is what happens to the cartridges after use.

We have thought of an idea which allows us to reuse our cartridges in the filters. If the washing machine company has already had the cartridge installed and provides a supply of extra cartridges, the user can return the used cartridge to the company. The makers could clean the cartridge, reuse the microfibers and sell the used cartridges at a lower price.

As this is an issue that the whole world is facing perhaps we could be the first country to apply the law. Thank you for your time in reading this, we hope that you are able to consider the contents of our letter.

Yours sincerely,

Earth Ambassadors