



Pearson



Ask the Expert

How can your school “bring the Ocean to the classroom”?



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Kavina Upadhyay

Head of Youth Engagement at Ocean Generation shares her top tips.

1. First, connect with the magic of our Ocean

In order to protect something, first you must love it. For so many of us, the Ocean is mysterious, far away and unknown. There are so many ways we can build that connection, no matter where your school is located. Bringing Ocean sounds and visuals into the classroom is easy with technology at our disposal, especially with resources such as these [short learning videos from Blue Planet II](#) on YouTube and [The Ocean Agency's image-based Toolkits](#), which can serve as inspiration for classroom displays or murals.

2. Find your local connection to the Ocean

Every second breath we take comes from the oxygen provided by our Ocean. You don't have to be living near the Ocean to be impacting it. The water on our planet is a closed loop cycle so that means puddles, rivers, streams, rain, canals, lakes, ponds, even the water coming out of your tap is a chance to connect your students back to the Ocean. [Short videos from our Ocean Academy programme](#) can help set the scene before a challenge to the students to find that connection to the Ocean in your school environment and investigate human impact on that water source.

3. Harness opportunities for your school to connect with a global agenda

We are currently in the UN's Ocean Decade. By participating in Ocean education and action, you are joining a concentrated global initiative to manage the Ocean sustainably. There are opportunities to ride the wave of global calendar days and make your students feel connected to something bigger. Everyone knows about World Ocean Day (8th June), but what about World Maritime Day (28th September), Antarctica Day (1st December), World Wetlands Day (2nd February) or World Water Day (22nd March)? Stuck on how to take action?

Our [Blue Booklet](#) is overflowing with ideas.

4. Embed Ocean-themed lesson plans that tick off curriculum objectives

There are plenty of easy wins in bringing readymade lesson plans that sit within the formal school curriculum. The Ocean has its obvious curriculum links across Primary and Secondary to Science and Maths, but there are also connections to Citizenship, Literacy, Geography, Design Technology and English. You can unlock a year's worth of our educational resources by signing up to our Ocean Academy newsletter [here](#).

5. Find your 'Ocean Ambassadors'

Nothing resonates more loudly than youth voice. By introducing an Ocean Ambassadors Panel and appointing a teacher to support the space, you will be able to identify your most keen students and give them space to develop youth-led actions, to have the greatest impact on your school community. Empowering students to become advocates for our Ocean fosters leadership, critical thinking, and a sense of global responsibility, whilst combatting eco-anxiety by demonstrating their power as changemakers.

