

Opportunity 2: Switching lights off when not needed

Lights are often left on in schools when there is enough natural daylight in the room and when pupils leave the classrooms. If the room is to be used afterwards it's sensible to leave the lights on but often the room is left unoccupied with all the lights left on. Modern lighting can be switched on and off as required.

Windows can be obscured by displays and blinds resulting in lights being switched on when natural daylight could be used instead. Blinds are closed when TV's and interactive boards are used, and lights switched on after use rather than opening blinds.

Taking the steps below will help your school make the best use of natural daylight and reduce the use of artificial lighting saving energy, costs and emissions.

1. Each class or tutor group teacher to arrange for there to be an energy monitor for each group either by asking for volunteers or by selecting a pupil. In some cases it may have to be the teacher themselves or learning support assistants.
2. The role of the energy monitor with agreement from the teacher is to:
 - Monitor the level of natural daylight in the classroom during the day and if there is sufficient daylight, to switch off unnecessary lights.
 - To turn lights off if the classroom is to be left unoccupied after the lesson
 - To ensure blinds are opened rather than turning lights on following the use of a projector/TV etc.
 - Make sure that no posters or displays on windows prevent natural daylight entering the room.

How much could you save?

If the school doesn't already have a switching off policy you could save up to 10% of your electricity bill.

To give you an idea of what can be saved carry out the following:

Find out what the school's annual electricity bill is = £ A

The amount of money you could save each year (B) is found by $A/100 \times 10 =$ £ B