

The Formentera Council Office of Environment reports that pupils of the Mestre Lluís Andreu school took part in a day of education which found pupils joining artist Sol Courreges in creating a symbolism-heavy project incorporating micro-plastics gathered over the past year. Children also read out short manifestos in defence of the planet.

This 2018-2019 school year, GEN-GOB and the Council have collaborated on a project called “Plastic Zero” across the island's three primary schools in Sant Francesc, Sant Ferran and la Mola. Spearheaded by the Centre d'Estudis Avançats in Blanes, a group that works to monitor plastics pollution on Mediterranean beaches across Catalunya, Mallorca, Alacant, Eivissa, and now Formentera, the project has obtained help from the science-related civil society group Seawatchers (Observadors del Mar).

To get things off the ground, September of last year saw the selection, based on location, of three local beaches, that would be used to study how pollution effects sea currents. Cavall d'en Borràs was sponsored by Mestre Lluís Andreu, es Pujols by Sant Ferran and es Arenals by la Mola and the other two schools. Some 700 primary school pupils are thought to have participated.

During the school year, children observed established scientific protocol as they gathered samples, which were taken to to schools in order for other students to analyse and classify the plastics. Once entered into the system and weighed, that data was sent to the Seawatchers website.

According to acting environment councillor Daisee Aguilera was on hand for today's event and followed the initiative's progress first-hand during the school year. “Projects like these are terific examples of how to teach future generations about the importance of caring for our environment”, she said. She took the opportunity to give her thanks to the educational community and collaborators for their help “making our island a more sustainable place”.

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