Do you know the idiom ‘clean as a whistle’?
Do you know what ‘clean as a whistle’ means?

When we say something is ‘clean as a whistle’ we mean that it is thoroughly clean or pure.

Another phrase that means the same thing is: ‘clean as a new penny’.
Origins: the story

There are several schools of thought about the origin of this idiom, a couple are detailed below:

One idea is that the word ‘clean’ was changed from clear, because ‘clear as a whistle’ was used to refer to the clear, pure sound of a sword swishing through the air, particularly when decapitating someone. There is an example of this used in the 19th century: ‘a first rate shot. (his) head taken off as clean as a whistle’.

A whistle will make the best sound to cut through other noise when it is clean and no dirt or moisture affects its tone.
Examples

1. The application process involves security checks to make sure that everyone is clean as a whistle.

2. George’s play area is as clean as a whistle.
Consider

• When have you heard a whistle blown? What do you notice about its sound?

• What things can you imagine describing as being as clean as a whistle?

• When might it be useful for something to be as clean as a whistle?

• Are there any times that we shouldn’t worry about things being as clean as a whistle?