



Guidance for Teachers

Sustainability
first

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Great
Science
Share
for SCHOOLS

Equipment:

- Device to share video
- Pencils, paper and/or computers for pupils' to write questions, comments, concerns etc.

Main Concepts:

- What can pupils do to protect the changing world in various areas of their lives?
- Why is it important to work together to protect the planet?
- What are other young people doing to protect the planet?

Curriculum Linking:

- England:

Citizenship (non-statutory): During the key stage, pupils should be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding through opportunities to: a. take responsibility (for example, for planning and looking after the school environment; for the needs of others, such as by acting as a peer supporter, as a befriender, or as a playground mediator for younger pupils; for looking after animals properly; for identifying safe, healthy and sustainable means of travel when planning their journey to school)

- Scotland

Health and Wellbeing: Through contributing my views, time and talents, I play a part in bringing about positive change in my school and wider community. HWB 2-13a

- Wales

Geography: Pupils should be given opportunities to study living in “living in my world”: caring for places and environments and the importance of being a global citizen

Step by Step Guidance:

- Watch the video and encourage pupils in groups, or as a class, to consider how they protect the planet through actions they can do at home, at their school and in their community.
 - Feel free to show videos from climate activists (on our website) and the Youth Climate Film Project (available [here](#)) to inspire pupils.
 - Ask pupils to write about what actions they will take to protect the planet
1. At home
 2. At School
 3. In their community
- Ask pupils to highlight what actions they will do and why they have chosen these actions to take.
 - Share pupils' climate messages using our uploader - we will share them at our pupils' assembly on June 15th and can share responses from experts with pupils!



**Share with us
so we can
learn with you!**

Make sure to upload your work here so we can learn with you and share your work widely with waste experts at our June 15th pupils' assembly and with the older people who have written these statements!

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Climate messages to the world transcription

Many people across the world are taking action and doing brilliant things to try and protect planet earth from the climate crisis.

The best part is – it's not just adults working to protect the planet! Young people around the world are concerned with the changing planet and want to make sure they can grow up into a healthy world where they can thrive and be happy– so they're taking action too! It's particularly powerful when everyone, young and old, work together to stop the climate crisis– it means change can truly happen.

Perhaps you or some people in your school are already doing things to tackle the climate crisis?

Making choices in our daily lives that protect the planet is called sustainable behaviour. What does sustainable mean? Sustainable means that we can maintain a healthy planet for all living things today and for many years to come.

There are lots of different things you can do to protect the planet and they are all important!

So – what can you do?

You can decide to change your lifestyle and what you do each day to help ensure a healthy planet. For example:

You can ask your parents and carers to let you walk, cycle and take public transport like buses instead of driving a car to get to school or go to the shop. When we use public transport instead of cars, there are fewer vehicles on the road burning fuel and emitting greenhouse gases which warm the planet.

You can protect nature and biodiversity by planting community gardens and trees. Remember, biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals – by planting trees and gardens, we are not only making our areas look beautiful, but we are adding biodiversity to local ecosystems, providing homes and food for animals and insects and providing places to rest and reflect for people in the community.

Indigenous communities, or the first inhabitants of areas around the world, have been protecting nature and biodiversity for a very long time. For many Indigenous groups all over the world, taking care of the environment is an important part of the culture. Researchers have found that some parts of the Amazon that are taken care of by Indigenous communities experience less deforestation – this is an interesting example of the care Indigenous communities take to protect the land.

You can also try to remain thankful for everything the earth gives us. Reminding ourselves of this can be really helpful to feeling motivated to make sustainable choices.

In Canada, some Indigenous communities begin meetings, events, or gatherings with something called the Thanksgiving Address. The Thanksgiving Address identifies plants and animals on earth and the moon and the sun and the wind, and acknowledges how special and important each and every plant and animal is to our world and how lucky we are to live on the earth. Isn't that an excellent way to begin a meeting or a gathering? By sharing all the amazing beauty and nature we're surrounded by and being thankful? Remaining thankful for all the earth provides us is a great way to always remember why it is so important to take action to protect the earth. Gratitude, or thankfulness, is an important aspect of acting against the climate crisis.

Think long and hard about what you buy, if you need it and if the product has an impact on the planet. Lots of people are trying to buy less plastic to protect river and ocean animals that are affected by plastic pollution – this can help protect biodiversity in rivers and oceans and to make sure that water ecosystems are working well so we can have clean water.

Think about the food you choose to buy, and where you buy it from. Remember when we were talking about deforestation? Lots of deforestation is caused by cutting down trees so that cows can be raised for meat. Raising cows, or cattle, also uses up lots of resources like water. Because of this, many people try and buy less meat, and often particularly beef. Some people try and grow their own food, or buy their food from local farms, so that they don't have to buy food from a supermarket which has travelled long distances in cars or planes that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Try and use less energy at home and school. Turn off the lights, computers or the TV when you are not in a room. If you are cold, put on a jumper before turning up the heating. And try and have short showers rather than big baths as hot water uses lots of energy too!

While we can make many changes in how we travel, shop, and heat our homes and schools, we still need some help from government. This is because governments can pass laws ensuring individuals and companies protect our planet. Governments can also spend money to help people be more sustainable, for example by setting up more buses across a city or town, or setting up bike paths so more people can feel safe cycling.

4. People across the world try and work with the government in different ways to protect the planet. Sometimes governments ask for communities' opinions on sustainable changes – like more bike paths for cyclists or more trees lining the streets.

Other times, governments don't immediately listen to communities, and people try and share their opinion in other ways, like sharing petitions. A petition is a letter sharing a concern, like big polluting cars, which thousands of people sign to show governments how many people care about the issue and how important it is to address the issue.

Many groups also campaign for change. Campaigning is when groups of people come together to achieve a shared goal. Through setting up events, creating artwork, writing songs, etc. campaigns try and convince people in power, like those in governments to help them achieve their goal.

There are many pupil and student-led climate campaigns working hard to protect the planet.

One campaign working hard to protect the planet is called Fridays for Future. Have you heard of Greta Thunberg? Greta is an 18-year-old climate activist from Sweden. In 2018 she started Fridays for Future by sitting in front of the Swedish parliament (where the government works) every day for three weeks to protest lack of action on the climate crisis. Fridays for Future is now an international movement of young people asking their governments to do more to protect the planet. From Iraq and Afghanistan to the UK and Canada – despite the thousands of miles in between, young people are working together to ensure a bright future for everyone.

Another campaign is called Teach the Future. Teach the Future is a group of pupils across the UK who are campaigning to make sure information about the climate crisis and ways to act is taught to every single pupil in every single classroom in the UK – like what we're doing now! The climate crisis is the biggest issue our planet is facing and Teach the Future believes that young people should know more about the crisis so they can make responsible and sustainable decisions.

Gosh! I'm inspired – are you? There's no time like the present to make decision in your daily life that are good for the environment, decisions to:

1. Travel sustainably
2. Protect nature
3. Remain thankful for all that earth gives us
4. Eat food that doesn't harm the planet
5. Buy less plastic
6. Ask the government to help us make planet earth happy!

Let's explore how we can act against the climate crisis. But before that, let's take a short rest to pause and reflect on our own wellbeing.