

# **Cultivating Green Roots**

A Practical Guide to Climate Change & Sustainability in Your Schools and Classrooms

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### Dr. Mona Chiriac, PhD

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### In this webinar...

- Navigate some key principles of climate change and sustainability education
- Uncover practical guidance for schools, teachers and learners to engage with climate change and sustainability education
- Reflect on your current practices and identify opportunities to promote sustainability awareness and agency



### **KEY PRINCIPLES**



A whole school approach



Cambridge Schools Conference, March 2024
Effective communication: from competence to confidence

School culture of sustainability



Interdisciplinary approach and learning about systemics





Strong subject knowledge and secure skills across all ages





Action-oriented learning and the development of agency





Pluralism and the ethical dimensions





Local relevance and global citizenship





- Whole school approach
- Interdisciplinary approach and learning about systemics
- Strong subject knowledge and secure skills across all ages
- Action-oriented learning and the development of agency
- Pluralism and the ethical dimensions
- Local relevance and global citizenship





# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



## A whole school approach:

- School ethos
- School policies
- Community partnerships
- Curriculum design



https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000246740



### Towards transformative education



A clear path for educational success from age 3 to 19

#### Cambridge **Early Years**

#### Age 3+

A play-based programme, with:

- · a holistic curriculum
- engaging resources
- support to measure progress

6 curriculum areas including Personal, social and emotional development

#### Cambridge **Primary**

#### Age 5+

- · Clear, adaptable curriculum
- Flexible assessment options
- · Support and resources

11 subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Art & Design and Wellbeing

#### Cambridge **Lower Secondary**

#### Age 11+

- · Clear, adaptable curriculum
- Flexible assessment options

### · Support and resources · Insight to understand poter G L Copy BoAc at performing R Singration (tip) se ac lie mint S

11 subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Art & Design and Wellbeing

#### Cambridge **Upper Secondary**

#### Age 14+

- Broad, adaptable curriculum Fair valid reliable assessment
- Cambridge IGCSE™: 70+ subjects Cambridge O Level: 40+ subjects Cambridge ICE

#### Cambridge Advanced

#### Age 16+

- · In-depth, adaptable curriculum
- Fair valid reliable assessment
- Support and resources
- Insight to predict performance

Cambridge Internationa AS & A Level: 55 subjects Cambridge AICE, Cambridge IPQ

Cambridge Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

#### Making a difference

Learners will explore sustainability and its impact on wellbeing, ethically sourcing everyday items, and protecting and improving the local environment. They will understand the concept of justice and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and explore how to address inequalities and take responsibility in local communities.





# Global Perspectives – transforming education

- Develops transferable skills
- Discovering, exploring and respecting different views
- Topics of personal interest and global significance
- Agency Personal & collective investment in action
- Includes **sustainability** in the aim of the curriculum





## Sustainability education - Global Perspectives

- Experiential and place-based learning
- Critical and systemic thinking
- Action and civic engagement
- Holistic development of the learner



## Reflection on a whole school approach

- Are climate change and sustainability values included in your school's vision, mission statement?
- Do members of your school's community share a common understanding of what climate change and sustainability education means? What opportunities can you create for this to happen?
- Do you have specific policies that address these issues?
- How does the school engage with external partners and organisations to enhance climate change and sustainability education?
- What barriers do you face and how can these be removed?

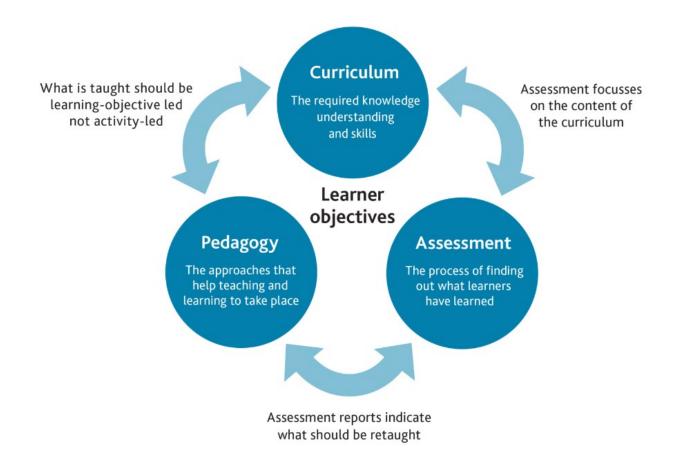




### **GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS**



### Curriculum coherence



https://blog.cambridgeinternational.org/describing-coherence-of-curriculum-pedagogy-and-assessment/



Content:	Identify	Identify
	examples from	opportunities
	current practice	for integration
	in your subject	in your subject
	area	area
Content which explicitly		
addresses aspects of		
climate change and		
sustainability education		

Resources:	Identify examples from current practice in your subject area	Identify opportunities for integration in your subject area
Textbooks Library books (fiction and non-fiction, and scientific reports and publications)		

# Curriculum

Content Resources



Practice:	Identify examples from current practice in your subject area	Identify opportunities for integration in your subject area
Learners work collaboratively to undertake a research project and report on a climate change or sustainability issue present in the local area		

# Pedagogy

### Teaching & Learning approaches





- Do my assessment methods align with the learning intentions and goals of climate change and sustainability education?
- Do my assessments focus not only on knowledge acquisition about climate change and sustainability but also on the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that are relevant to climate and sustainability issues?

### Assessment



### To consider...

- Cultural sensitivity
- Age appropriateness
- Accessibility for all learners
- Hope and agency vs. ecoanxiety





### Reflection...

Think about the subject(s) that you teach.

What opportunities do you have to integrate climate change and sustainability education?



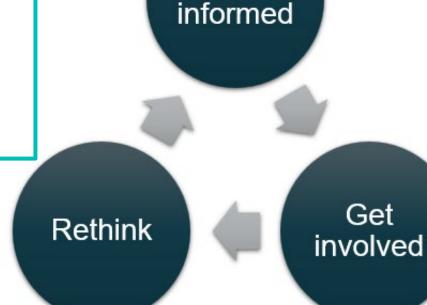


### GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



- Responsible consumer
- Use climate friendly transport
- Adopt climate friendly practices at school and at home

- School/community-based activities and events
  - Read/ research
  - Critically evaluate information



Be

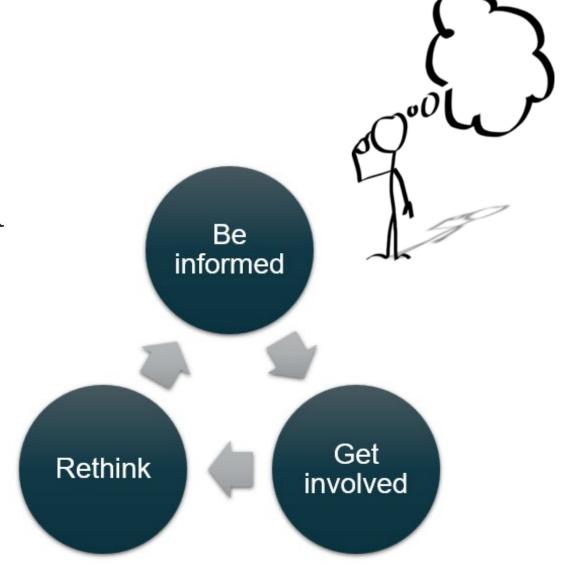
- Volunteer/ support climate action projects
- Initiate/ enrol in climate action groups
- Carry out assessments
- Mentor younger students



### Reflection...

• What opportunities do your learners have to get involved in climate change and sustainability education activities?

 How can these be maximised?





### Next...

How will you get engaged?





https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/why-choose-us/benefits-of-a-cambridge-education/climate-change-education/



# Thank you!

