



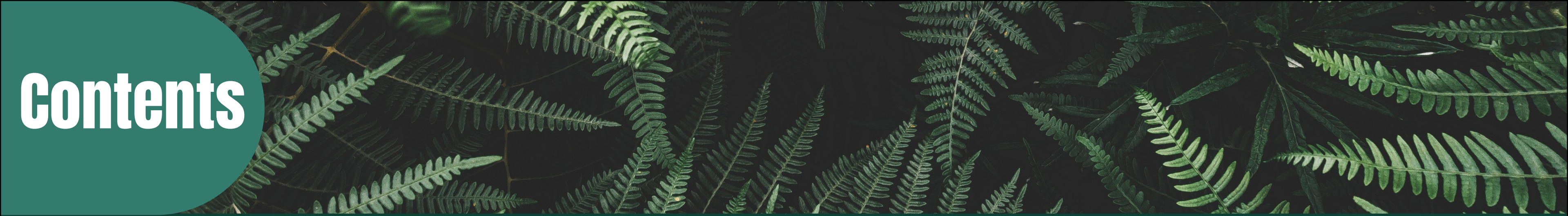
Practical Approaches to Climate Change Education

in Primary Schools

Climate change education can be challenging, but this interactive workshop offers practical strategies for incorporating climate-conscious thinking into daily teaching and school life, suitable for any resources or setting.

Rhiannon Bland
The Heritage Private School





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Why is it important to educate children about climate change?

At the Heritage, we believe that children need knowledge and practical ways to respond to real-world challenges.



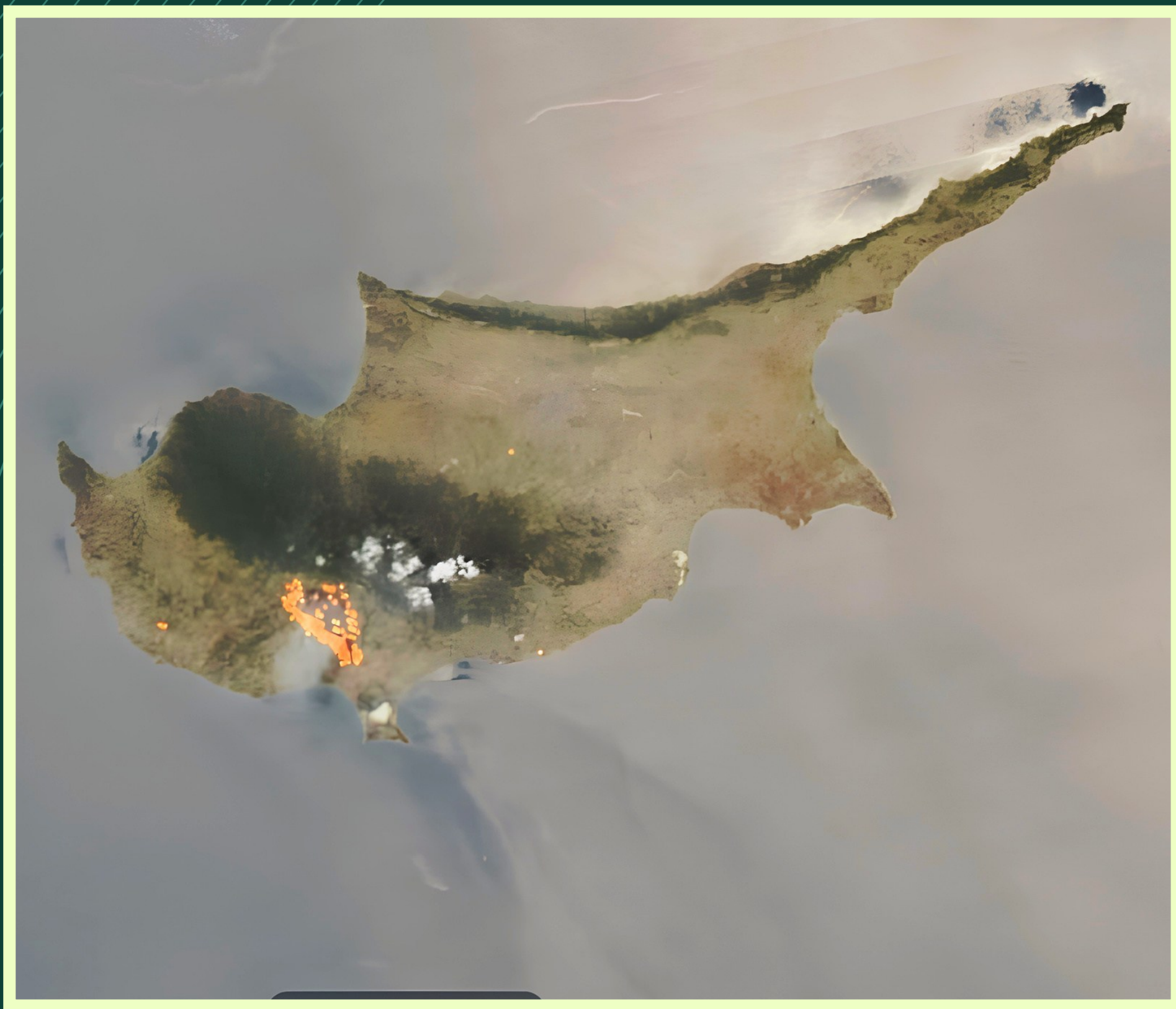
Context



The Heritage Private School - Cyprus

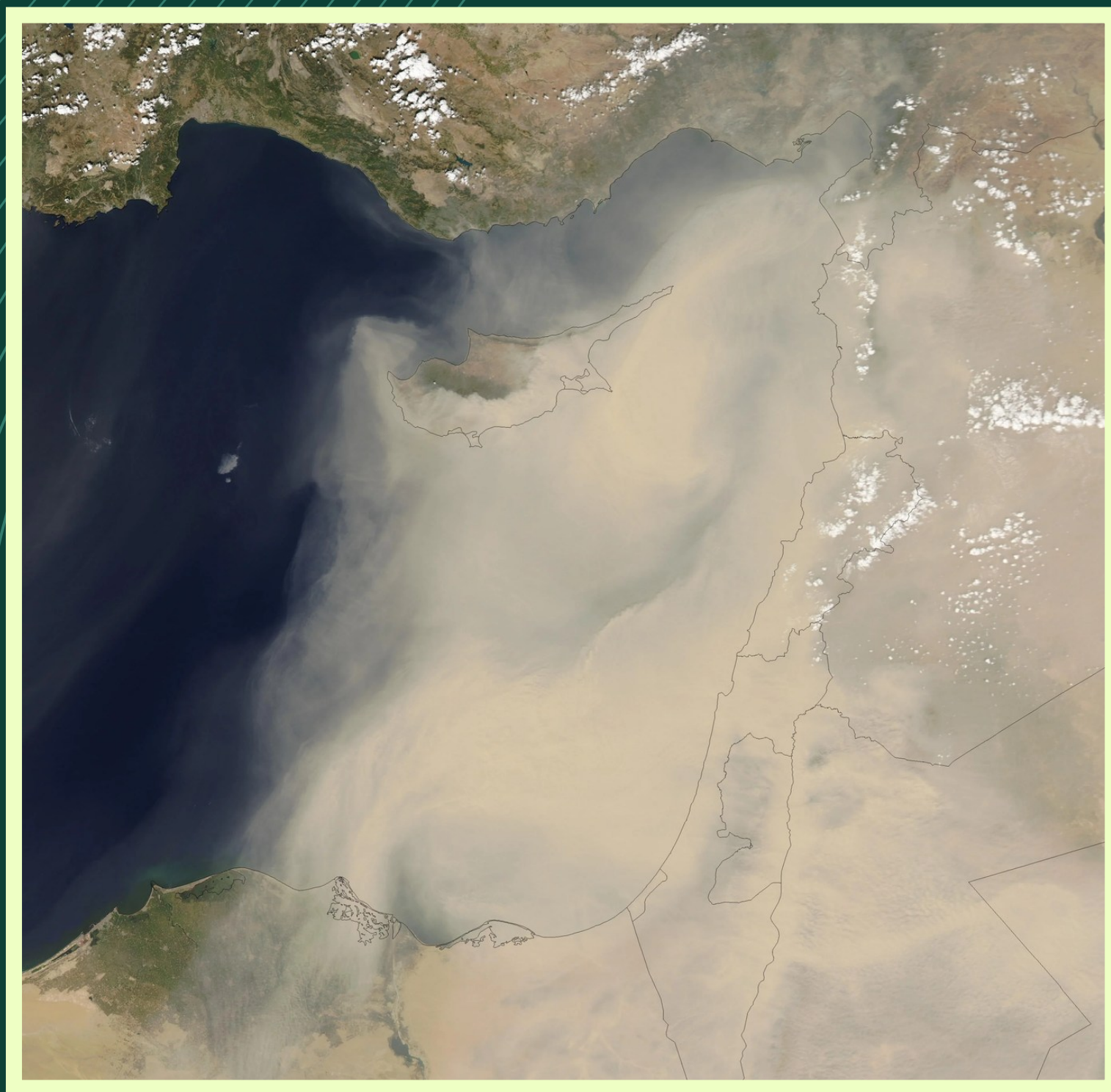
Climate change can sometimes feel distant or abstract for students, so at the Heritage, we focus on environmental issues they could physically see and experience in their everyday lives.





Heatwaves, water scarcity and the impact of wildfires.





Dust and Biodiversity Loss





Tourism, environmental pressure and the changing environment.



What are your country's environmental challenges?

What issues affect your students?

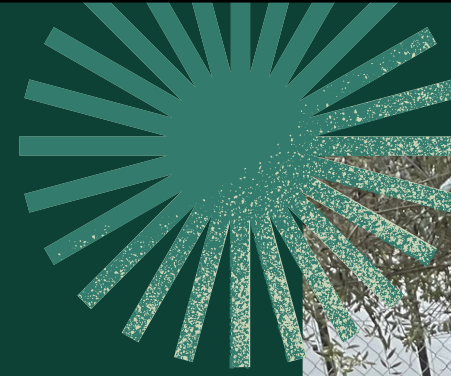
What environmental problems are visible locally?



Relevance

Making Climate Education Relevant

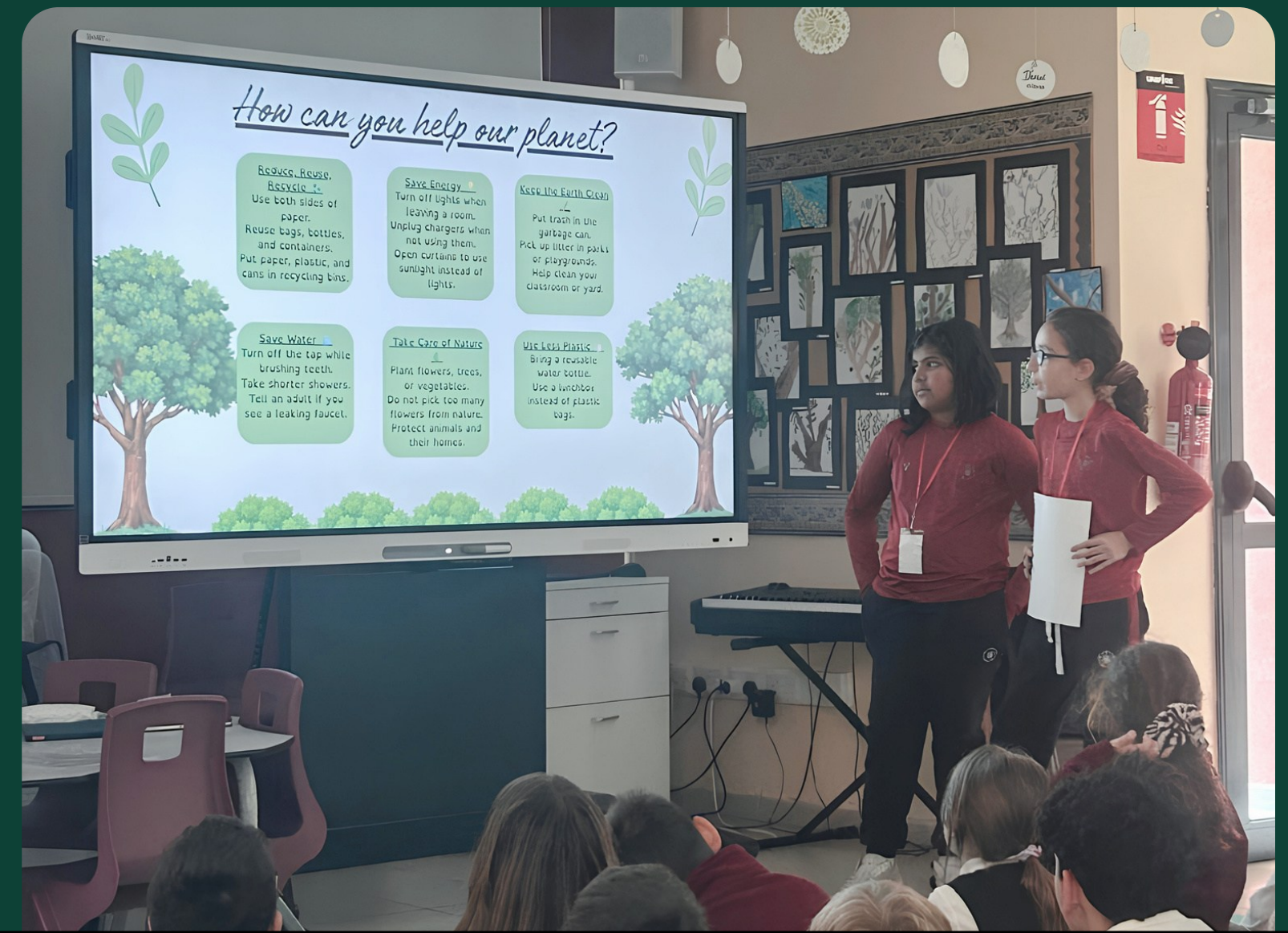
Practical investigations that connect learning to students' lived experiences.



Students engage more when learning feels real.

Practical Investigations

- School temperature studies
- Planting of indigenous trees & plants
- Mapping temperatures in Cyprus
- Climate awareness surveys
- School carbon footprint studies
- Air quality monitor installed
- Biological water treatment facility



Meaningful Learning

Climate education is best delivered through meaningful learning experiences rather than as a separate topic.

Geography

Students:

- visit glaciers
- explore coral reefs
- observe wildfire-affected landscapes
- compare environments around the world

Learning developed:

- geographical understanding
- comparison skills
- interpretation of environmental change
- local and global connections

Nearpo



English

Students:

- debate environmental issues
- write persuasive letters
- create awareness campaigns
- present solutions

For example:

Should more trees be planted around the school?

Learning developed:

- communication
- argument construction
- audience awareness
- speaking and listening



**Cross-
curricular**

Whole-School Climate Education



Outdoor Learning

- Forest school
- Pond/river studies
- Tree planting
- Field trips
- Temperature/air quality studies



Student Action & Responsibility



- Eco monitors
- Assemblies
- Weekly goals
- Clean-ups
- Recycling & Composting committees



Cross-curricular integration

- Geography (Heat maps, fires, river studies)
- Science (Carbon footprint, climate investigations)
- Business (Sustainability)
- DT (Sustainable homes)
- Art (Tourism impacts)



**Knowledge,
Skills &
Values**

Effective climate education develops knowledge, skills and values while nurturing the Cambridge Learner Attributes.

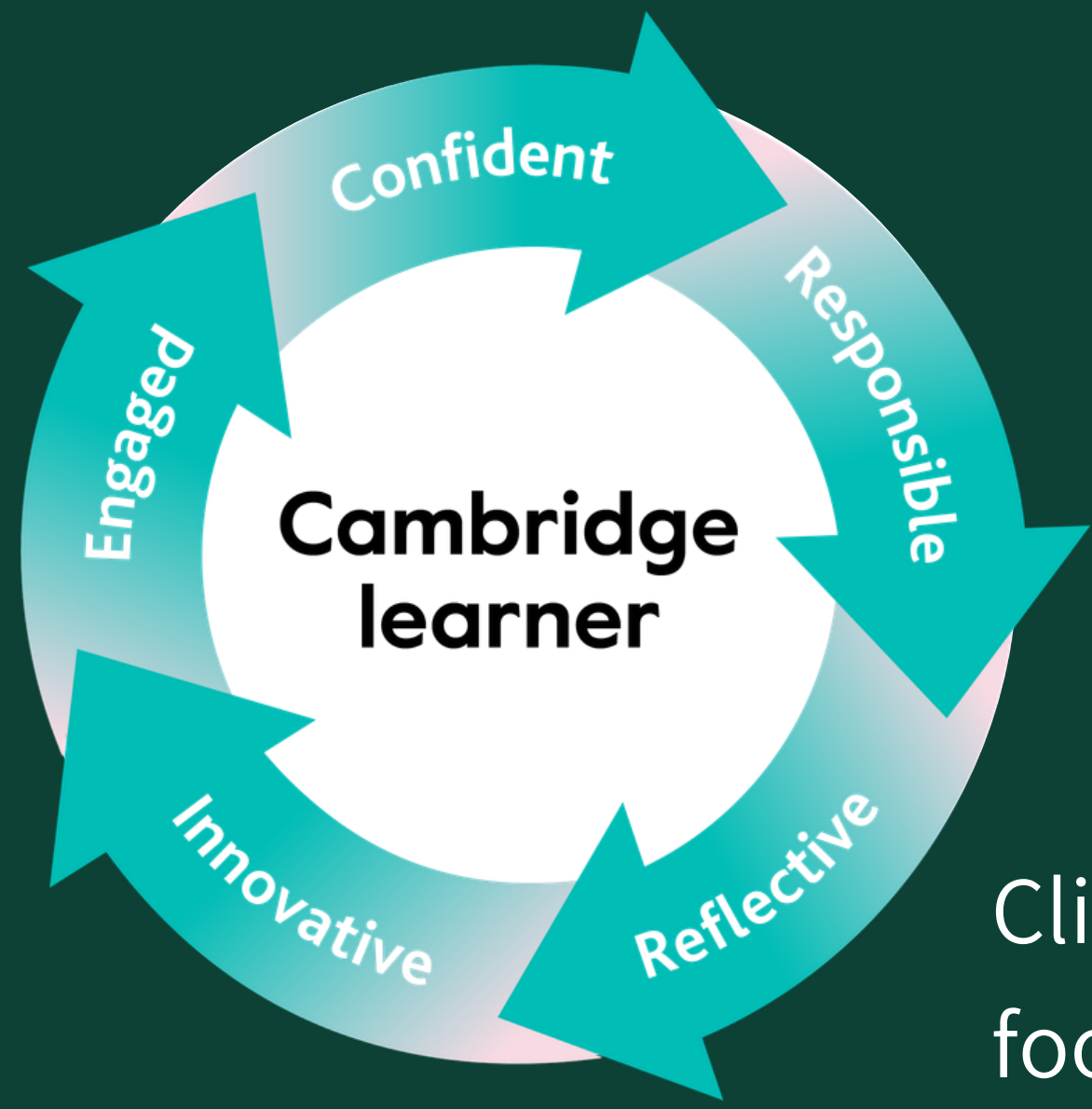
Presenting ideas, leading assemblies, discussions

Assemblies, campaigns, community projects

Eco Monitors, recycling, clean-ups

Sustainable Homes Competition

Climate surveys, carbon footprint studies



Sustainable Home Design Competition

Students applied sustainability concepts through design thinking and problem solving. The use of external judges increased authenticity and student ownership.



Student Action

From Learning to Leadership

Eco Monitors Helped With:

Monitoring recycling

Checking lights/energy usage

Supporting and leading assemblies

Promoting weekly goals

Encouraging outdoor respect of the environment

Helping with awareness campaigns

Leading sustainability discussions

What opportunities exist for student leadership in your own school?



Task

Make it Relevant

Weather

Waste

Tourism

Fires

Water

Energy

How could this work in your school?

Choose a local issue and create:

1. A climate issue relevant to your school.
2. Think of a practical investigation or project.
3. Identify the action outcome.



Reflection

What is one realistic change your school could impliment?

A practical investigation?

A student leadership opportunity?

A curriculum link?

A whole-school initiative?

A way to make climate education
more relevant?



Conclusion

Climate change education is most effective when it is:

- practical
- locally relevant
- cross-curricular
- student-led



There is no single model for climate education; the most meaningful approaches begin with the needs of your students and community.

Feedback



Cambridge Schools Conference, July 2026
Future-ready: preparing learners to thrive

Any questions?

Cambridge Schools Conference, July 2026
Future-ready: preparing learners to thrive



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Thank you!

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