

Climate Education Bill – Briefing for MPs

Young people are growing up in a world shaped by the climate emergency and ecological crisis. However, secondary school children report that they aren't being taught about the solutions to climate change or being prepared to face the frightening effects of climate change. This is leading to an increasing number of young people experiencing eco-anxiety and mental health issues¹. Our [Climate Education Bill](#) seeks to tackle this issue.

What we want to change

- The siloed way that climate change is taught in secondary schools leads young people to think that this is just something geographers and scientists need to know about and act upon.
- The problem-centred way that climate education, and information about the ecological crisis, is taught leads to eco-anxiety and is contributing to poor mental health in young people.

The opportunity our Bill presents

- Curriculums will be enriched by learning about climate change and sustainability in a joined-up and interdisciplinary way. Most students want to learn more about climate change², so this will help with their academic achievement and reduce student absence linked to anxiety and stress.
- More young people will become agents of change with the adults in their lives, helping the Government to tackle those hard to reach pro-environmental behaviours like low carbon diets and less short-haul flying³.
- The future workforce will be more motivated and better prepared to help deliver the transition to the low carbon economy, and to plug the low carbon skills gap. This will help the Government deliver green growth across all parts of the country.

Our Climate Education Bill would mean that:

- The Department for Education (DfE) would be required to **review the national curriculum to integrate climate change and sustainability**, including approved subject content;
- Climate change and sustainability would be further integrated into **vocational training** in further education colleges;
- Maintained, independent and academy schools, and further education colleges, in England would have a **new duty to provide** quality, integrated solutions-centred climate education to their students;
- **Agencies of the DfE**, such as Ofqual, Ofsted and the Office for Students, would be required to ensure that applicable educational institutions adhere to their new duty;
- Exam boards would be required to integrate climate change and sustainability into **qualifications, exams and assessments**, where appropriate;
- The **DfE would need to support teachers and tutors** to integrate learning about climate change and sustainability into their teaching⁴.

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¹ <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/10/06/the-climate-crisis-and-the-rise-of-eco-anxiety/>

² 68% of students are interested in [learning more about the environment](#)

³ 21% of adults said young people in their lives have [led to them make changes to their behaviours to reduce their impact](#)

⁴ 70% of teachers feel they [haven't received adequate training](#) to educate students about climate change, yet 89% reported that issues regarding climate change were relevant to their subject area