



Climate  
School 180

***An Invitation to participate in Climate School 180 –  
Learning through Landscapes’ new groundbreaking  
climate-focused initiative.***

**Introducing Learning through Landscapes**

Our vision is a society where the benefits of regular time outdoors are valued and appreciated, and outdoor learning, play and connection with nature are recognised as a fundamental part of education, at every stage, for every child and young person.

For over 30 years, we have been at the forefront of this work, using our unrivalled knowledge and expertise to enrich the curriculum, foster a deeper connection to nature, and promote good health and wellbeing for all. We are proud to have been supported in our mission by Sir David Attenborough, who has been our founding Trustee and Patron since 1989.

**The need for high-quality Climate Change Education**

We know climate change is an urgent global challenge demanding immediate attention and action. In their recent Climate Ambition Summit (UN, 2023), a clear message resounded: the climate crisis looms large and the window to avert catastrophe is swiftly closing. Educating the next generation about climate complexities and impacts is not only crucial for tackling this issue, but also essential in meeting the UK's net-zero target of 2050.

Children and young people’s encounters with nature include witnessing environmental degradation and destruction. Global threats like climate change and species loss are impacting their mental health. Their fears and worries about environmental risks and losses are an expression of their connection to nature.





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**We must take the path where the urgent issue of climate change is effectively addressed, and where constructive hope empowers all children and young people to navigate environmental threats, find positive meaning, and create a brighter future for all.**

Many parents are communicating the pressing nature of climate change and the importance of their children learning about it. Parents argue that schools represent the most suitable setting for Climate Change Education. Despite this confidence, there is a growing concern among parents about the adequacy of current Climate Change Education in schools. Additionally, children and young people perceive a lack of teacher enthusiasm for teaching about climate change, highlighting areas for improvement in the delivery of Climate Change Education.

There is also a substantial gap in teachers' climate change knowledge, due to a lack of high-quality training and understanding of what a quality Climate Change Education approach looks like. This leads to a resistance to adapt the curriculum to reflect our rapidly changing understanding of climate change and its impacts. It is this gap that the Climate School 180 project seeks to address.

## **Introducing Climate School 180**

School grounds across the UK add up to an area equivalent to a new national park. Many of our school buildings and grounds were not designed and built with the need to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Currently 84% of existing school grounds are hard surfacing or maintained grass, both of which offer little mitigation against a changing climate.

School grounds are also a place where our children and young people spend significant amounts of time, for play and learning. They provide the opportunity for 'living laboratories' as an essential part of a high-quality Climate Change Education. School grounds can be adapted to address the many aspects of our changing climate, protecting our children and school buildings.



## Climate School 180

Currently there is little guidance and expertise on how schools can develop a new approach to using our school grounds as we now experience our changing climate. To respond to these challenges, Climate School 180 aims to support understanding of how schools can use their grounds as an integral part of their Climate Change

Education curriculum, developing nature-based solutions in the school grounds. We will be using the evidence from our recent project [Climate Ready School Grounds](#) to inform this project.

### The aims of Climate School 180

Our groundbreaking initiative aims to develop constructive hope by:

1. **Developing training for educators and leaders:** Designing and implementing a comprehensive training programme for educators and leaders in schools to enhance their understanding of using and adapting school grounds as essential components of Climate Change Education.
2. **Identifying changes in school grounds:** Systematically identifying and initiating sustainable changes in school grounds to address the impact of climate change. This involves assessing and transforming existing hard surfacing or maintained grass areas, with the goal of creating long-term nature-based solutions that contribute to climate resilience.
3. **Empowering children and young people:** Equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively participate in and advocate for positive changes within their school grounds. Through hands-on experiences and immersive learning opportunities, we will empower students to become stewards of their environment and active contributors to climate change mitigation efforts.



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## **Expert partners**

In our commitment to staying at the forefront of the latest research and evidence on adapting school grounds and its implications for outdoor learning and Climate Change Education, we are dedicated to collaborating with a diverse range of expert partners. This collaborative effort includes key partnerships with the University of Stirling and Climate Adapted Pathways for Education (CAPE). Working with landscape architects, climate specialists, nature experts, and dedicated school staff, we will bring together a range of expert views on adapting school grounds. The resources and guidance provided will be thoughtfully tailored to suit the unique educational landscapes of all four home nations.

## **Want to be a Climate School 180 Partner?**

Please visit our project page and make your application or to answer any further questions you have.

<https://ltl.org.uk/projects/climate-school-180/>