

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS

Impact Report 2025/26



St Stephen's CofE Primary School, London, with Oliver

www.youngclimatewarriors.org
Reg charity no: 1192440

Message from Our Founder

Over 38,000 primary-aged children have now had climate conversations with our Young Climate Warriors (YCW) Ambassadors, igniting a powerful force for positive change. We've smashed our delivery targets on all four programmes, and have celebrated our young people in many other ways - with four inaugural Youth Panel sessions and a YCW Ambassadors Global Youth Event. Other highlights include the launch of our 'Eco-emotions' educators' resource and the opportunity to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday with poetry.

As a small, creative, responsive charity, our adaptable resources support each school on their own bespoke climate journey.

Delve in … witness our Ambassadors in action and hear first-hand from teachers, young people and children … Young Climate Warriors is both 'climate education in my pocket' and 'the youth of today inspiring the youth of tomorrow'. Thank you for being with us on our journey.

Katrina

Our Vision

For every child in the UK to feel engaged, empowered and able to reflect, discuss and choose their own informed path of climate action.

Our Mission

To advance the climate literacy of all children aged 7-14 in the UK by providing free resources to all teachers, educators, families and community groups.

To inspire a nationwide team of 'young climate warriors', so that every family is practising carbon-cutting actions and making sustainable living choices.

Our goals

Engaging our audiences - achieving our YCW goals.

Children

Goal: To advance climate literacy and engage and empower children (7-14yrs) to take action.

Teachers

Goal: To support teachers and educators to improve climate literacy and opportunities for climate action.

Families & Community Groups

Goal: To encourage families to learn about climate change, take carbon-cutting actions and make sustainable living choices, inspiring societal behavioural change.

Young People

Goal: Supporting young people (14-23yrs) in building skills to become future 'green changemakers'.

These goals, established by working through the Theory of Change, drive our ambitious programmes, and inform our strategic decision-making.

We don't believe it's our children's problem to fix the climate crisis, yet with nearly 3/4s of children saying they are worried about the state of our planet*, we do believe they have a right to learn about climate change, to hear about possible solutions, and to understand how we can make daily sustainable-living choices. We do so by igniting curiosity, encouraging reflection, building critical thinking skills and highlighting the need for a shared responsibility'.

Educators have a vital role to play in building climate-literacy amongst children. Teachers and educators are time poor. This is where we step in. Our inspiring resources ease the burden on teachers, whilst also driving the change we strive to see.

*Climate Anxiety Survey. BBC Newsround. 2020.

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Our Programmes

Our four key programmes - achieving our YCW goals.

Ambassador Assemblies

Interactive in-person Ambassador-led assemblies, kick-starting conversations about climate change and sustainable living. Including our bespoke YCW 'climate explainer' movie, and our interactive 'what's in the bag' game.

Climate Change Club In a Box

12 climate topics for small groups to delve down deeper. Either tailored Ambassador-led sessions, or downloadable, ready-to-go educators resource packs - establishing context and building curiosity.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Climate Skills Challenges

3 months of Climate Skills Challenges for DofE Award participants. Supporting our young changemakers via practical, analytical and critical thinking tasks, supported by individualised weekly feedback and engagement.

Challenges and Certificates

Weekly carbon-busting sustainable living challenges to take carbon literacy learning from school into the community. Fun, age-appropriate challenges, empowering climate action and providing agency.

Our Year in Numbers

Sept '25 - Aug '26

100
primary schools had an 'Ambassador-led' Climate Assembly.

18,207
children reached via our Climate Assemblies. (double 2024/25!)

707
educators now receive our weekly climate topic/challenge resources.

339
educators requested our resources/support over the year.

63
young people completed our 3 month DofE programme of climate change skills challenges.

71
active YCW Ambassadors. Based in 32 locations across the UK.

733
children reached via our 'Ambassador-led' CCC in a Box sessions.


St Michael in the Hamlet Primary School, Liverpool, with Molly

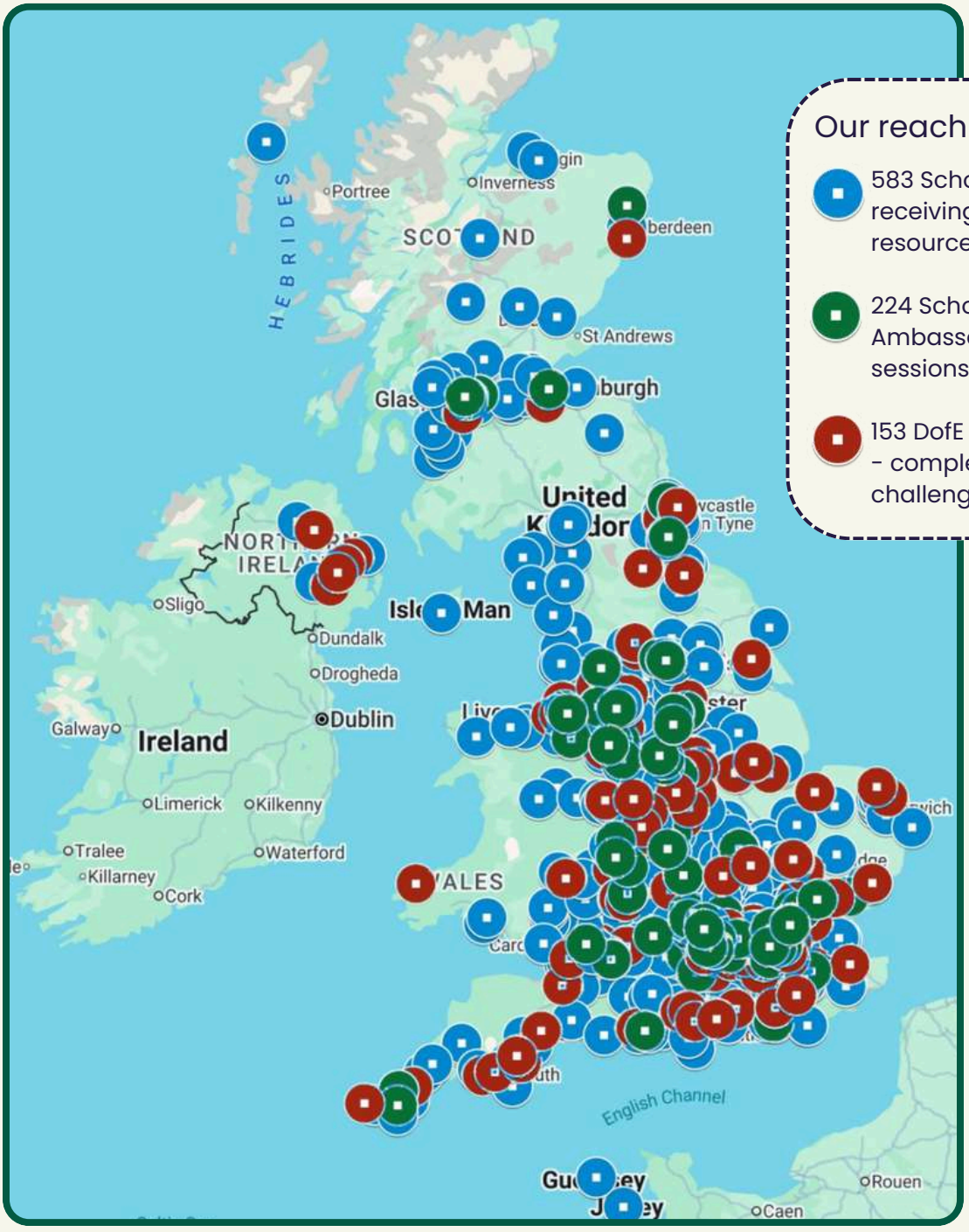

Broomhill Primary School, Glasgow, with Zahraa


St John's Primary School, Bath with Vinny

38,300
children reached to date - in total.

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Our reach



Our reach to date.

- 583 Schools - receiving our weekly resources
- 224 Schools - Ambassador-led sessions
- 153 DofE participants - completed challenges

We know that climate change impacts are not experienced equally. Vulnerable communities, the urban poor, and those already experiencing poverty are – and will continue to be – disproportionately affected, and children from disadvantaged backgrounds feel the impacts most strongly.

This year, 51% (39% in 2024/25) of schools engaging with YCW have greater than average 'free school meal eligibility'. We continue to prioritise schools in areas that rank more highly against the Index of Multiple Deprivation, ensuring children from all backgrounds across the UK are supported.

Our resources are adaptable and designed with a wide range of learning needs in mind. Our DofE climate programme has been complimented for being *'very accessible for young people with additional needs'* (Gill, DofE parent, Colchester).

Ambassador Assemblies

Interactive Climate Assemblies, shared by our YCW Ambassadors across the UK. 'The youth of today inspiring the youth of tomorrow'

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting children aged 7-11yrs	• 100 Climate Assemblies shared in 2025/26 in Primary Schools across the UK - stimulating climate conversations, building climate literacy and kindling debate about sustainable living choices. • Bespoke YCW movie explains the basics of climate science, prompting discussion on the 'what, why, how and who' of climate change. • YCW Ambassadors act as positive role models, share our 'climate ditty', and run our interactive sustainable-living game - 'what's in the bag'?
Supporting young people aged 18-23yrs	• 55 young people trained as YCW Ambassadors over the year, recruited from 24 towns/cities across the UK. • Ambassadors channel their climate-concern into a tangible community project. • Ambassadors develop skills in climate oracy and public-speaking, gaining confidence as potential future 'green changemakers'.

'It was a great assembly that really engaged our KS2 children. The video clip was perfectly pitched for their age group, and the hands-on activity of pulling items from the bag encouraged excellent participation.'
Broadheath Primary School, Worcester.
(YCW Ambassador - Annabel)

Grosvenor Park CE Academy, Chester. Erika shared our Climate Assembly in November 2025. Rachel, Deputy Head, said 'staff found the YCW Assembly a fantastic way to introduce climate change to the children'. Erika was invited back to celebrate Earth Day 2026 when she shared our CCC in a Box session: 'Environmental Footprints and Recycling' with their Eco Team. They then choose to follow this by completing several of our Weekly Challenges.



Broadheath Primary School, Worcester
(YCW Ambassador - Annabel)

'I really enjoyed giving the assembly! I think the children's favourite part of the assembly was the ditty, as it got everyone involved!'
Ellie, YCW Ambassador
Chorlton Park Primary School,

'The assembly sparked meaningful discussion across our school about climate change.'
William Levick Primary School, Derbyshire.
(YCW Ambassador - Saskia)

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Climate Change Club in a Box

Small group resources designed to build climate literacy & stimulate deeper sustainable-living discussions.

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting teachers	• A one-stop, ready-to-use resource platform supporting teachers to lead eco-club and classroom discussions. 161 schools requested our CCC in a Box resources in 2025/26. • New Eco-emotions resource developed in collaboration with Dr Louise Edgington (Climate Psychology Alliance). Supporting teachers to help manage children's worries and harness their emotions to bring about positive changes for our planet.
Supporting children aged 7-14 years	• YCW Ambassadors shared 'CCC in a Box' in-person sessions with 23 small groups, a new offering introduced in Spring 2026. • 'CCC in a Box' sessions are designed to equip our young people to become 'responsible, respectful, active citizens' (Education Inspection Framework)

'I think the Young Climate Warriors is a brilliant resource. I'm using the Climate Change Club in a Box and am involving the rest of the school with assemblies, a class award for the most eco-aware class, sending your newsletters home on Facebook and the school website.'
Tilery Primary School, Stockton-on-Tees



Climate Change Dodgeball
Valley Road Primary School, Oxfordshire, with Georgia

'Young Climate Warriors have been an incredible resource for us. We have used a lot of their tools in our eco clubs to enable us to educate the children in an age appropriate way – which as I am not a trained teacher has been invaluable!'
Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School, Ealing



Environmental footprints
Newland House School, London, with Sarah



'Show the Love'
Shire Oak CE Primary School, Leeds

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DofE Climate Skills Challenges

Three months of climate challenges, supporting DofE participants to develop sustainable-living skills via practical guided activities.

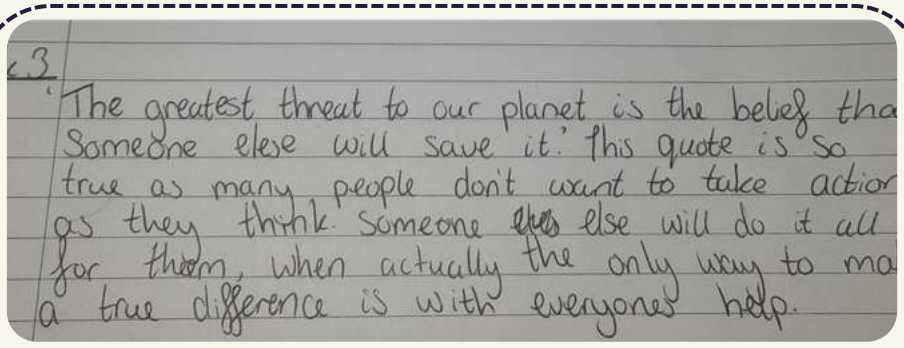
Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting young people aged 14+	• 60 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze/Silver participants supported on their 'climate journey', with personalised weekly email contact. • 13 weekly challenges strengthen critical thinking skills and enable the development of a shared responsibility values framework. • 100% say they will continue actions adopted during this programme - such as avoiding products with palm oil, eating less meat and spending more time in nature.
Supporting wider communities - family and friends	• Intergenerational engagement strengthens climate action. Feedback shows 99% of participants discuss their climate challenges with family, teachers, friends or relatives, extending our reach into wider communities.

Research shows that our connection to nature reaches its lowest point in our teenage years – and that if we don't experience the natural world, we are less likely to act to protect it.

Our 'Tree-mendous' challenge in week 7 encourages participants to explore a local green space, share photos and reflect on what they see. They're encouraged to think critically about how nature can be protected.

Alfie responded to the challenge by picking up litter in his local woodland.





Jess, DofE participant, in response to the first DofE challenge. (Quote by Robert Swan, British polar explorer)

'I talked to my friends about the challenges and we did some together as a family which was really fun.'

Emily, DofE participant

'It has made me think about my impact on the environment. My daughter and I have subsequently made changes to our actions to help the planet.'

Mardi, DofE parent

'Learning about [climate] entrepreneurs and pioneers has inspired me about what I could do when I am older.'

Elsa, DofE participant

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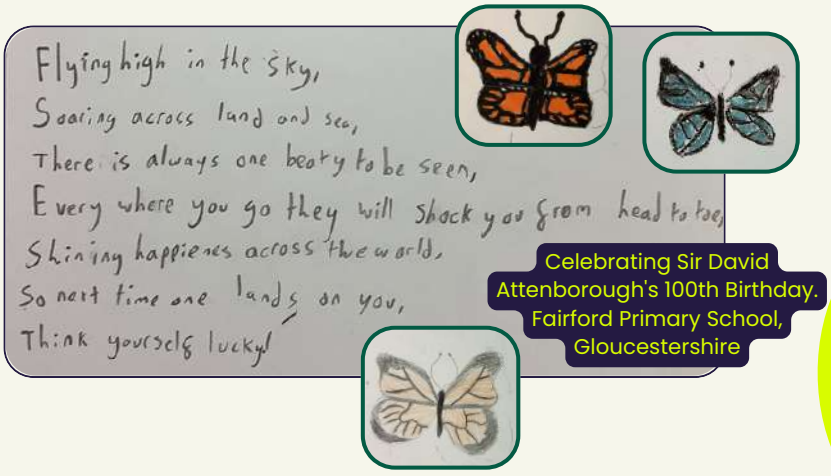
Challenges + Certificates

Fun, age-appropriate weekly carbon-busting sustainable-living challenges taking carbon literacy from school into the community.

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting children aged 7-11yrs	• Weekly challenges/topic-based resources shared with 707 educators (further shared within schools via newsletters, class dojo pages etc). • 437 emails received from children/families who had completed challenges, each received a personalised reply. • '3 Little Actions Award' builds sustainable living skills, whilst engendering a sense of teamwork. 130 children received '3 Little Action certificates'.

Broadoak Primary School, Manchester: YCW Ambassador - Emily shared a Climate Assembly in September 2025, following which the Eco-council completed 210 YCW Weekly Children's Challenges! Congratulations!





Celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday. Fairford Primary School, Gloucestershire

'We decided to join YCW because we love nature and the environment. We like the challenges they give us every week, and we like to know that somewhere out there the environment and animals are being saved.' Mia and family



Greystoke Primary School, Cumbria

Shire Oak CE Primary School, Leeds: YCW Ambassador Kate delivered Climate Assembly training to the Year 6 group, so they could then share the assembly with younger classes. Inspired by this, the school's Eco Team took on our YCW Weekly Children's Challenges. Highlights included making friendship bracelets for our 'climate injustice' challenge and outdoor chess pieces from plastic bottles for our 'upcycling' challenge.

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Other highlights from the year

YCW 5th birthday celebration

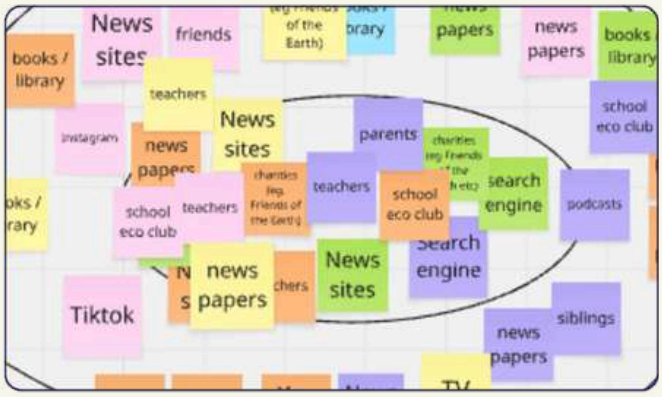
We celebrated five years of YCW in October 2025 at 1EdCity, London. Thanks to our guest speaker, Sarah Fishwick, Leeds DEC.



YCW youth panel

Four sessions led by Sarah, DofE Manager, and Aurelius, YCW Ambassador. Topics included getting out into nature, eco-emotions, green careers and climate information (post-its below show 'trusted sources' discussion).

'I feel braver to talk about climate change now.'
Alexia, youth panel member



Youth climate action around the world

Connecting with the Global Legacy Project, thanks to Beyond Bamboo. Global Youth Ambassadors - Bhakti (from the UAE) and Jato (from Cameroon) - shared a truly inspiring webinar with our YCW Ambassadors. It was one of those events where people wanted to keep talking ...

'Thank you very much for organising this event. It was lovely and inspirational to hear from the speakers and learn about what they are doing to help against climate change in their countries.'
Alicia, YCW Ambassador

'I just want to encourage everyone to keep pushing and never give up. I hope to perform [my music] for you all at the next summit in the UK.' 💛
Jato, Global Youth Ambassador, Forest Children, Cameroon



Meet The Team

We couldn't do it without you!

Staff

Trustees

Ambassadors

Other Volunteers

Our hard-working, passionate 'core team'



Katrina
Founder and Director



Lynne
Administration & Communications Manager



Kate
Schools Manager



Lucy
Ambassador Administrator



Benji
Funding Manager



Sarah
DofE Manager



Natalie
Outreach Advisor



Kate
Communications Admin Support

Our team of fabulous YCW Ambassadors!



Our Trustees:

Katrina Judge, Sarah Austin, Sam Mead
Sam O'Reilly, Mark Fisher, Trez Chan and Zack King.

Our amazing volunteers:

Bart Rhodes: Accountant. Andy Hopkins: Payroll.
Matt Bennett: Fundraising. Sabine Pusch: Filmmaker.

Our network of other climate organisations:

Coalition members of:

LET'S GO ZERO 2030 – Schools working together to be zero carbon – WE'RE IN, JOIN US!

THE CLIMATE COALITION

OUR SHARED WORLD

EDUCATION CLIMATE COALITION

Resources shared at:

Sustainability Support for Education

Eco-Schools Education

We support:

ZERO HOUR

National Emergency Briefing

We are a DofE Approved Activity Provider:

DofE APPROVED ACTIVITY PROVIDER

sustainability at school

Other collaborations:

KIDS against PLASTIC

&

LEGACY PROJECT

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What's next

Our 2026/27 aims

- Increase our reach:
  - Reach over 20,000 children through 120+ assemblies shared across the UK.
  - Support over 250 new schools with YCW resources.
  - Support 60+ DofE participants.
- Support deeper engagement in schools:
  - Share 40+ Ambassador-led Climate Change Club in a Box small group sessions.
  - Increase uptake of the 3 Little Actions Award.
- Grow our Ambassador Enrichment Programme.
- Enhance our impact monitoring mechanisms.



Green heart crocheted by Masha, DofE participant



By Fatima



By Ifa



The great unfolding 2026 - Weekly Challenge - 9 January 2026



By Briannah



By Leo



By Bilal



By Afifa

Little ME, big impact - 12 days of COP30 (plant-based eating) - Weekly Challenge - 7 November 2025



By Tara



By Thomas



By Ava



By Anouska

Photos and drawings of patterns in nature - DofE Challenge No. 12

Huge thanks to ...

Funding partners

We couldn't do it without you!

octopus renewables infrastructure trust

Garfield Weston Foundation

AVIVA Foundation

JM Johnson Matthey

BEYOND BAMBOO

DS Smith

MICHAEL O'MARA BOOKS

POSTCODE LOTTERY

POSTCODE GREEN TRUST

Development in Action

CHAPMAN CHARITABLE TRUST

COBB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
YOUR LEGACY STARTS NOW

South Oxfordshire District Council

PlanAid
all about nature

ICG FOUNDATION

POSTCODE SOCIETY TRUST

BigGive

BENEFACT GROUP

dwf

NINEVEH Charitable Trust

DATCHWORTH CLIMATE ACTION

Owl Live
THE BRAND EXPERIENCE AGENCY

FOYLE FOUNDATION

YCW 5th Birthday sponsors
Oct' 2025.

Chrissy's Kitchen - B Corp
Fern & Petals Florist
Earth Ale
Cawston Press - B Corp
Limden Vineyard
Jennifer George, Beauty Editor
Berry Bros & Rudd - B Corp
Rabbie's - B Corp
The Wave - B Corp

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