Teaching the Future
Research with teachers in England on climate education and the curriculum
Subject breakdown report
teachthefuture.uk
TEACH THE FUTURE
Climate and the curriculum
About the survey

Conducted by Teacher Tapp on 11\textsuperscript{th} January 2022.

4690 secondary education teachers from across England were surveyed.

Data has been weighted to reflect the national population of teachers in England.

This report provides details of the results according to the main subject taught by respondents.
Subject breakdown: Maths
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **7%** Climate change
- **3%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **4%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis

**75%** None of the above

**18%** Say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject

**20%** Say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject

Base: 874 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate change</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change included in my subject area’s exams</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment from school leaders</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding climate change within my subject curriculum</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not relevant / cannot answer</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 851
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content: 34%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 30%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis: 29%
- Commitment from school leaders: 21%
- Ecological crisis included in my subject area's exams: 20%

Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 18%
National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 18%

Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis in schools: 8%

None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 20%
Don’t know: 21%

Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: English
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **17%** Climate change
- **7%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **12%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis
- **63%** None of the above

Base: 886 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

1. Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content - 39%
2. Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the climate change - 34%
3. Commitment from school leaders - 29%
4. Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject - 28%
5. National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations - 23%

Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding climate change within my subject curriculum - 17%
Climate change included in my subject area’s exams - 15%
Ofsted inspecting coverage of the climate change - 10%
None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area - 14%
Don’t know - 19%

Base: 871
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content: 34%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 30%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis: 29%
- Commitment from school leaders: 21%
- Ecological crisis included in my subject area’s exams: 20%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 18%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 15%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis: 8%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 20%
- Don’t know: 21%

Base: 854
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: Science
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **67%** Climate change
- **49%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **34%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis
- **24%** None of the above

- **3%** Say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject
- **4%** Say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject

Base: 963 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content: 48%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 43%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate change: 41%
- Climate change included in my subject area's exams: 41%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 30%
- Commitment from school leaders: 25%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding climate change within my subject curriculum: 13%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change: 11%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 3%
- Don’t know: 8%

Base: 953
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content: 47%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 44%
- Ecological crisis included in my subject area's exams: 38%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis: 37%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 27%
- Commitment from school leaders: 25%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 16%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis: 9%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 4%
- Don’t know: 13%

Base: 938
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: Geography
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **92%** Climate change
- **64%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **69%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis
- **6%** None of the above

- **4%** Say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject
- **3%** Say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject

Base: 306 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
### What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate change</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment from school leaders</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change included in my subject area's exams</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the climate change within my subject curriculum</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not relevant – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment from school leaders</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological crisis included in my subject area’s exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis in schools</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 299
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: History
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **28%** Climate change
- **13%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **18%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis

- **54%** None of the above

- **17%** Say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject
- **23%** Say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject

Base: 308 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content: 43%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate changes: 39%
- Commitment from school leaders: 30%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 28%
- Climate change included in my subject area’s exams: 20%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 18%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the climate change within my subject curriculum: 15%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change: 7%
- Not relevant – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 17%
- Don’t know: 11%

Base: 302
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content: 36%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis: 28%
- Commitment from school leaders: 25%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 22%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 15%
- Ecological crisis included in my subject area's exams: 14%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 14%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis in schools: 8%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 23%
- Don’t know: 18%

Base: 298
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: Religious studies
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>None of the above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 154 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed *climate change* within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate change</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change included in my subject area’s exams</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment from school leaders</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the climate change within my subject curriculum</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not relevant – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 152
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content: 41%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis: 38%
- Ecological crisis included in my subject area’s exams: 26%
- Commitment from school leaders: 25%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 22%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 21%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 19%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis in schools: 13%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 6%
- Don’t know: 18%

Base: 146
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: Languages
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

- **27%** Climate change
- **13%** Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)
- **16%** Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis
- **56%** None of the above

Languages

- **12%** Say climate change isn't relevant to their subject
- **17%** Say the ecological crisis isn't relevant to their subject

Base: 927 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content: 41%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like climate change: 35%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 25%
- Climate change included in my subject area’s exams: 24%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 23%
- Commitment from school leaders: 22%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding climate change within my subject curriculum: 12%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change: 9%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 12%
- Don’t know: 14%

Base: 295
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed **the ecological crisis** within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- **Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content** - 36%
- **Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject** - 31%
- **Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis** - 29%
- **Ecological crisis included in my subject area’s exams** - 24%
- **Commitment from school leaders** - 22%
- **National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations** - 20%
- **Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum** - 16%
- **Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis** - 7%
- **None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area** - 17%
- **Don’t know** - 18%

Base: 290
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Subject breakdown: Arts inc. D&T
Which of the following are embedded in your school's curriculum, in your subject, in a meaningful and relevant way?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Ecological crisis (i.e., biodiversity decline and the collapse of systems in nature that support life on our planet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Challenges for humanity that result from either or both of the climate emergency and ecological crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>None of the above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18% say climate change isn’t relevant to their subject
22% say the ecological crisis isn’t relevant to their subject

Base: 249 Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed climate change within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

- Specific capacity/time for developing climate change curriculum content: 42%
- Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the climate change: 41%
- National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations: 30%
- Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject: 25%
- Commitment from school leaders: 24%
- Climate change included in my subject area’s exams: 18%
- Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum: 14%
- Ofsted inspecting coverage of climate change: 9%
- None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area: 18%
- Don’t know: 6%

Base: 245
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
What would most support you to embed the ecological crisis within the curriculum for your subject at your school? [top 5 choices]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific capacity/time for developing ecological crisis curriculum content</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with different subjects to develop the curriculum on cross-cutting issues like the ecological crisis</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion within the national curriculum for my subject</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National curriculum is reframed around care for oneself, others and the environment, now and for future generations</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment from school leaders</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further evidence on the benefits for pupils of embedding the ecological crisis within my subject curriculum</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological crisis included in my subject area's exams</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ofsted inspecting coverage of the ecological crisis in schools</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these – these issues aren’t relevant to my subject area</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 242
Balance: Not relevant/cannot answer
Full research at:

teachthefuture.uk/research