



FFRINDIAU'R BYD SESSION 5

Stewards of God's Creation

Learning Focus (Gwella Section 50)

- To develop greater awareness of Christian values and how they can impact positively on our behaviours and our relationships as ethically informed citizens
- To make links between our behaviours, our actions and the Bible.
- To understand and consider the impact of our actions when making choices and decisions.
- To show our commitment to the sustainability of the planet and that we are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.



Encounter



As 'ethical, informed citizens' we are learning: to understand the impact of our actions, to respect the needs and rights of others, and to show our commitment to the sustainability of the planet. As citizens of our schools, our communities our country and our world we have a responsibility to care for our planet.

The creation stories we have learnt about help explain and make us think about our place in the world. Many of the creation stories teach us how important it is to live in harmony with the environment, treating the earth's resources with respect. Christians often describe God as 'The Creator' and we are learning how God would like us to be good Stewards of his creation and therefore care for creation, care for our planet. God's vision for the Earth is one where people respect the world and each other.

So what does being a steward of his planet mean; what do we and others need to do?

As 'ethical, informed citizens' we have a voice to speak out at what we think is wrong in our school, community, country and our world.

Remember Greta Thunburg? She is what's known as an environmental activist.

You might like to find out more about what Greta and what she accomplished.

The Church in Wales and Christian Aid have both called a Climate Emergency. Thinking back to the story of creation, God has given human beings special responsibility to care for creation. When God created the world, He put humans in charge. This means that we are all stewards of our world and that we have a responsibility to take care of our planet, the environment, the animals and the other people who are in the world. To be good stewards we must live a way of life that respects God's creation, including the other humans that he put on earth.

Christians believe that when God created the world he gave humans responsibility to look after it, to care for it and to care for one another. Many people, of all faiths and none, share the belief that humans have a responsibility to care for our planet.

As Pope Francis explains,

"It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live." Pope Francis

We therefore, must be the people who cause the change in the world so that it becomes a better place. We must make our hearts rich with love and with good deeds. We must help and guide others to do the right thing.

Actions- Whole school actions;

You may already have some exciting plans to address the climate emergency. If so, let us know, we'd love to share them! Here are some other suggestions to think about:

1. Curriculum Explore links to climate change across all subject areas. Introduce project-based learning to develop education for sustainability as a cross-curricular priority. Schools can use project-based learning approaches to explore a range of topics, involving members of the local community in their work. Give the pupils a voice, ask them what they would like to see taught within their curriculum regarding climate change/climate emergency.

2. Food Create a vegetable garden or if you already have one, maybe you could extend your choice of vegetable/fruit etc. Get the pupils to consider why home grown or locally sourced food are better for the environment. Perhaps think about why people chose to be vegetarians or vegans. Have a meat free Friday, and write to your LEA or to whoever prepares your food, to adopt the idea.

3. Transport Encourage travel on foot and by bike for students, staff and families.. Review the school transport policy. Do something positive during the annual Walk to School Week and advertise it in your community. Let's make every week Walk to School Week.

4. Resources Use renewable, sustainable resources. Ban single-use plastics. Make Eco bricks out of plastic bottles. Buy environmentally friendly, fairly traded products where possible. Use biodegradable cleaning materials. Think about setting up a whole-school scheme. Review your school purchasing policy.

5. Energy Switch off lights. Turn down the heating. Wear extra clothes. Insulate and ventilate. Purchase energy from renewable suppliers. Install solar panels or wind turbines. Write to your LEA to see who your energy suppliers are or better still get the pupils to do it?

6. Clothing Avoid cheap uniforms imported from developing countries. Encourage suppliers to use natural and sustainable fibres. Maybe run a second-hand uniform shop.

7. School grounds Grow your own veg. Teach children how to garden. Plant trees. Encourage wildlife on to the site. Make the most of your school grounds to involve students in outdoor learning.

8. Participation Set up a climate-crisis committee (consisting of pupils, staff, parents and members of the local community) to explore what your school can do. Let everyone know that each one of us can make a difference in caring for our planet.

Suggested Actions for pupils

1. Create a collage of the things that destroy our planet and cause global warming and the climate emergency we are in.
2. Create a collage of what you would like the earth to look like.
3. Create eco bricks to reuse your plastics.
4. Between September 1st – October 4th the church celebrates Creationtide. Find out more about this.
5. October 4th is a day when the Church remembers St Francis of Assisi, find out about his life.
6. Find out information about the COP26 summit held in Glasgow in November.
7. Write a letter to your AM and MP to pass on to our delegates at the COP26 in Glasgow, regarding this climate emergency. Write and tell them what you want the earth to look like.
8. Write a letter for creation around Christian Aid theme of Climate Emergency. Letters for creation is a project that invites children to tell the people in charge what they think about climate change and how they need to look after our world. For more details please see the link on our webpage.
9. Make your action count and inspire others to do their bit by sharing what you are doing using #TogetherForOurPlanet on all social media platforms and joining others through the Count Us In campaign.

Reflect

Finally, we are launching **The Church in Wales Climate Emergency Competition**

We would like images of what our pupils think the future planet should look like. They should include a few words explaining their work and what is important for the future of our planet.

The competition is open to all pupils of our Church in Wales schools aged between 3-16.

We will be selecting some of the artworks to be displayed in our cathedrals and on the Church in Wales website. There will also be a prize awarded to the overall winner in each of the categories:

- Foundation Phase
- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 3
- Key Stage 4

For more information please see our website.



Transform

Now that you have completed the Ffrindiau'r Byd work what changes have you made?

Are you thinking about something in a different way?

Have you made a change to something you do everyday?

Has your school made any changes?

Have you decided to take action?

Share with your diocese all the changes you have made. As learning organisations we want to support each other and reach out to our communities.

