



## COVER SHEET

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Education Secretary Puts Climate Change at the Heart of Education.	
<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b> Head Teachers and RE Subject Leaders in all Primary and Secondary Schools.	
<b>SDBE CONTACT:</b> Shaun Burns	<b>DATE:</b> 8 November 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-puts-climate-change-at-the-heart-of-education--2>

Last week at the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, the Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, announced a range of measures designed to put climate change at the heart of education. These range from teaching climate change education, encouragement of children to become involved in the natural world by increasing biodiversity in their school grounds, learn about and acting for sustainability and protecting their local environment. There are also a raft of measures at ensuring the school estate becomes cleaner, greener and reduces emissions by 78% by 2035 and reaches net zero by 2050. This is all part of the draft Sustainability and Climate Challenge Strategy launched by the Department for Education, which will be built on over the next 6 months in collaboration with young people, educators, sustainability experts and environmentalists to create a final version of the strategy in April 2022.

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education has had this cause as a major focus in its work and objectives in our quest to become an Eco Diocesan Board of Education and as part of the diocese's journey to becoming an Eco Diocese. We continue to work in our offer with schools, providing advice, guidance and support in environmental matters now and over the coming months and years to support each of them on their eco journeys. This includes thinking and acting environmentally about our school buildings and grounds; guidance on the curriculum, advice on developing outdoor areas, our Eco Schools Workshops; our Diocesan Eco Award / Charter and supporting and encouraging schools in applying for accredited awards such as Eco Schools and Global Neighbours.

We encourage schools to work closely with their parish church as part of it to together become an Eco Church. The Letters For Creation project from Christian Aid and The Church of England is a timely and worthwhile way for children and young people to be able to express their messages about climate justice to the world and if you haven't done so already, we encourage you to look at the Letters For Creation website for more information and resources: - <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/letters-creation>

As Church of England schools we are called to live carefully and wisely as stewards of God's world, taking care of what we have inherited and passing it on well to the people who come after us.

“TREASURE’ reminds us of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark of Anglican Mission: -

*“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”*

How we treasure should be a key part of the Church of England school's Christian distinctiveness and needs to be a strong element of who the school is and how it lives out its life, - the school's deeply Christian vision. It therefore naturally runs through the different strands of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) as well.

So as your school moves forward on its eco journey and you all consider and hopefully become more careful about how the school treads upon God's earth, read, look, reflect and pray about the draft Sustainability and Climate Challenge Strategy through the Christian lens.

*‘We must set out on our journey alongside Jesus, following his instruction to his disciples to tread lightly, to “carry no purse, no bag, no sandals.” (Luke 10:4).’*

The Diocesan Environmental Policy, The Diocese of Southwark.