



# **Bishops' Children & Youth Council Listening Report**

*Climate Change*

# Introduction

## How do we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester?

To find some answers, we are facilitating a termly process of youth-led agenda setting, listening, sense making and reporting.

### The Process

A group of young people set agenda and design a listening resource to distribute to listening groups.

Listening groups are facilitated in schools and church groups, across a range of contexts. Children and young people are asked to share their thoughts, ideas, and stories, in response to a series of conversation prompts and interactive activities.

### The Theme

The listening theme chosen by young people for Summer Term 2024 is **Climate Change**.

We are running this listening campaign in partnership with the OWL Network (Outdoor Worship Leicestershire). In September, we presented the findings of our listening at an event called "Leicestershire Eco Church Conversations".

To find out more about Eco Church > [ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/resources](https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/resources)

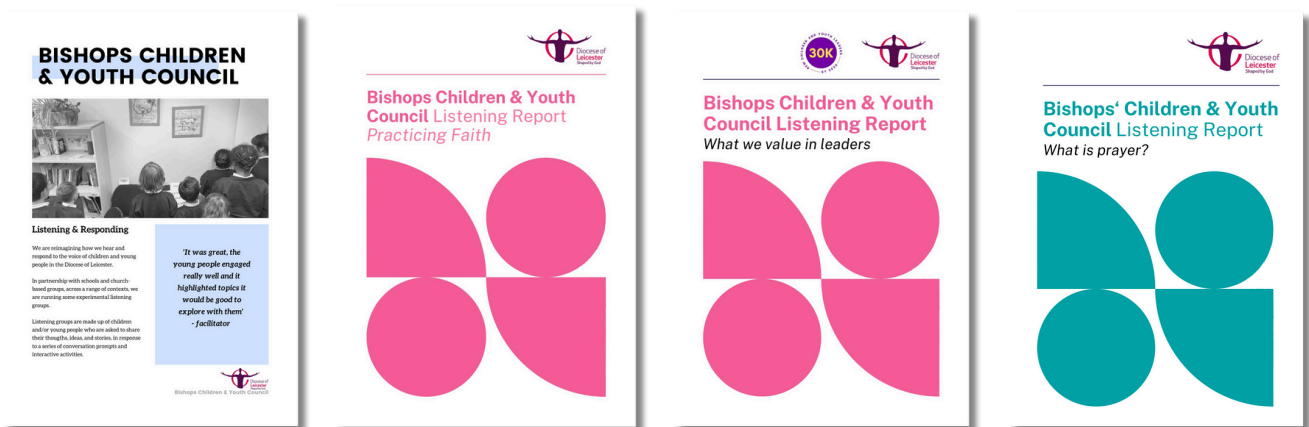
### The Report

This report summarises and showcases the responses we received from children and young people.



# LISTENING

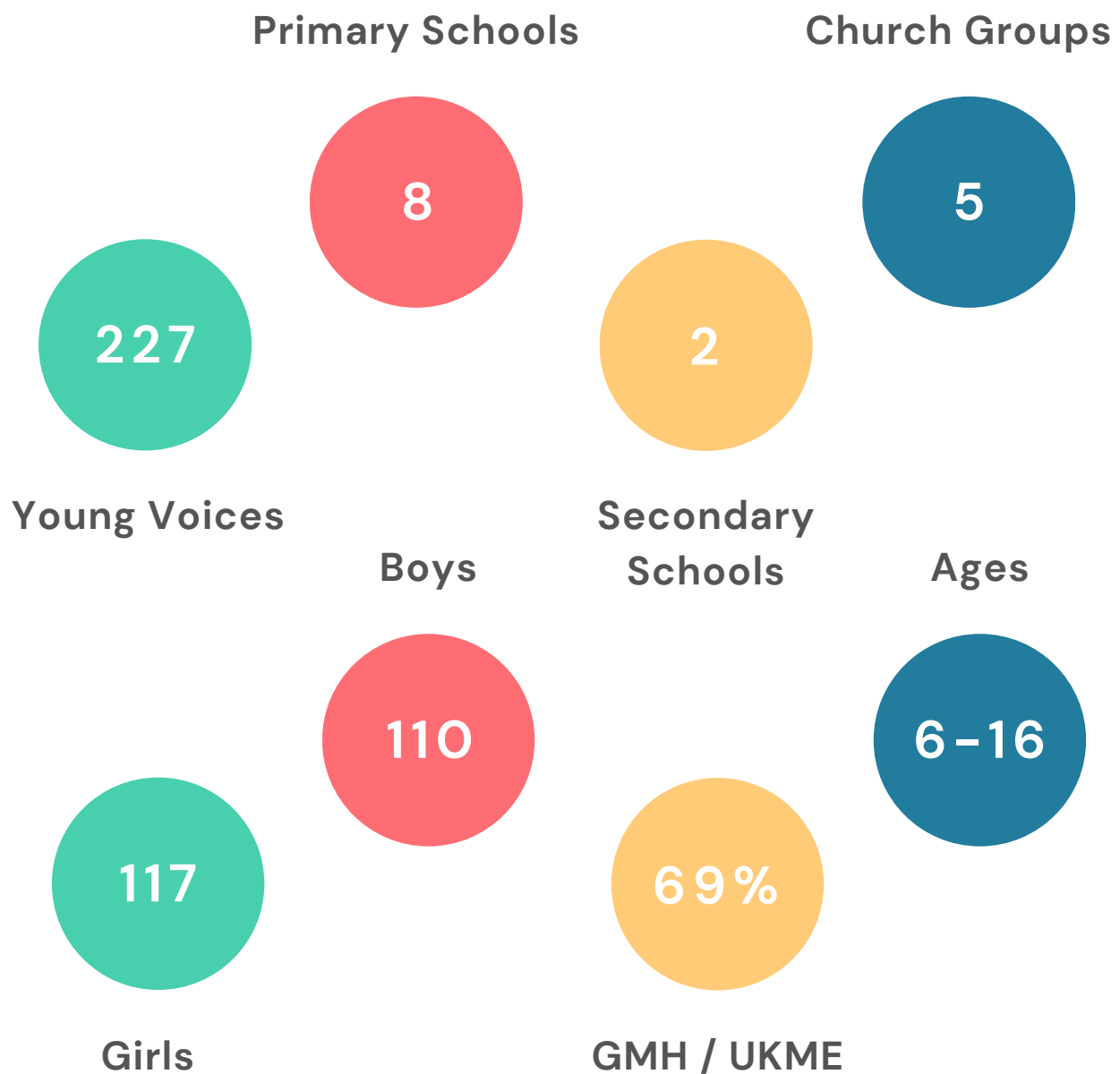
We've heard from more than 750 young voices from across the city and county, via four termly listening exercises.



Read all our listening reports and watch Bishop Martyn's response videos on the Diocese of Leicester website >>

[www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc)

# THE NUMBERS



# ROLL CALL



Broomfield Primary School, East Goscote

Church Hill C of E Junior School, Thurmaston

Crossfire Youth, Groby & Ratby

Dovelands Primary School, Eco Warriors

Fusion Lunch Club, Manor High School, Leicester

Gathering & Traveling fxC, Melton Mowbary

Hope Hamilton CE Primary School

Leicester Cathedral Junior Church

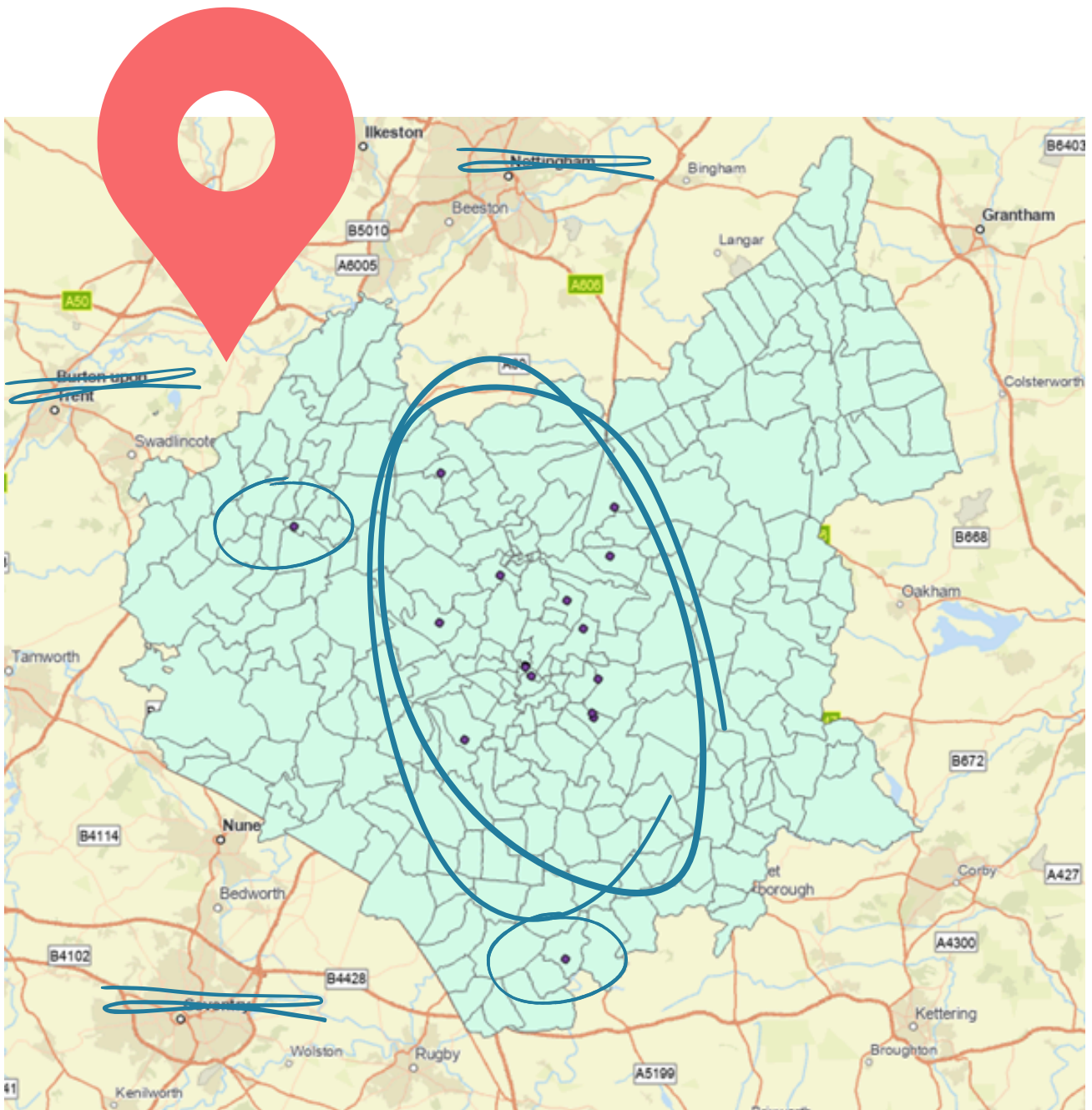
St Anne's Messy Church, Western Park

St Denys and the City of Leicester College

St Paul's, Oadby, Tribe Youth Group



A **MASSIVE** thank you to all children,  
young people and facilitators for their  
participation, enthusiasm and honesty!



## Legend

- Schools and Churches
- Diocese Region



# ROUND 01

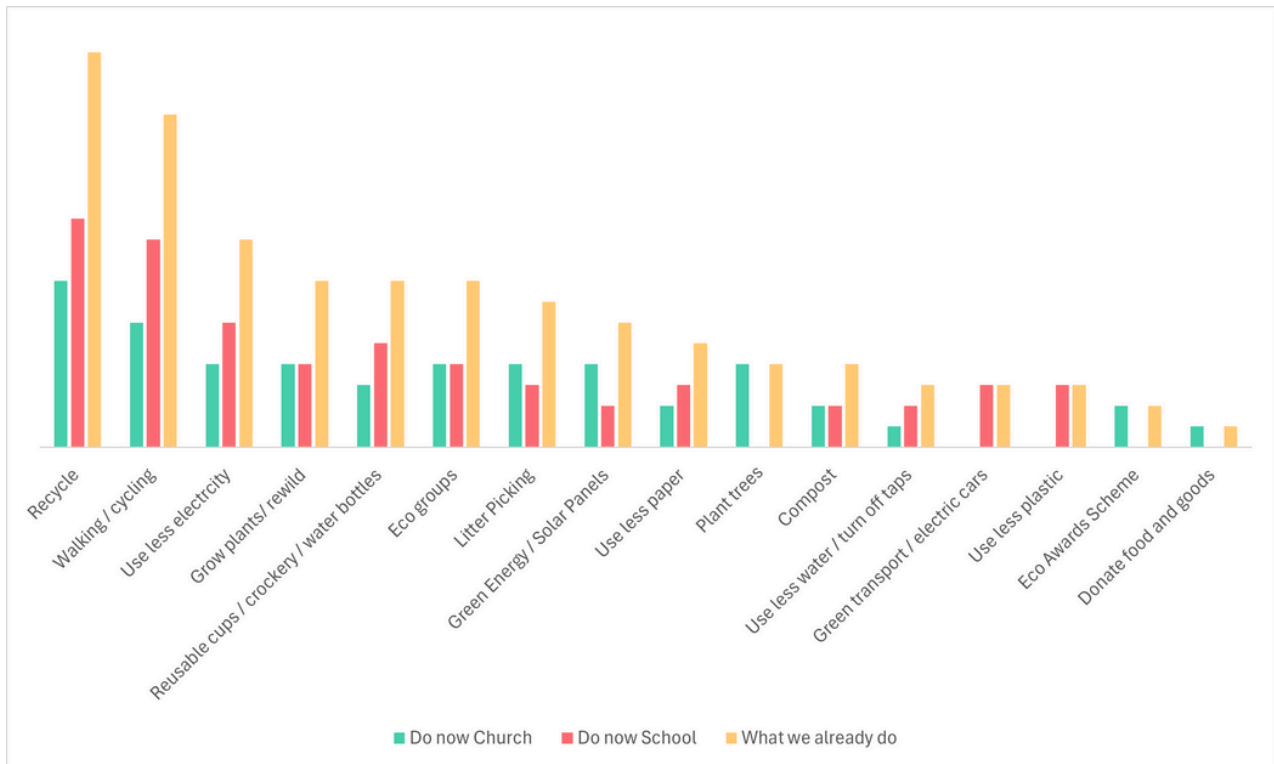
## Eco Schools, Eco Churches

**What we did:** Groups were invited to draw the outline of a school or church building and asked two questions - *what do we already do at our school/church to tackle climate change?* *what more could we do at our school/church to tackle climate change?*

Participants were invited to write down their responses...



# What we **already do** to tackle climate change in school & church

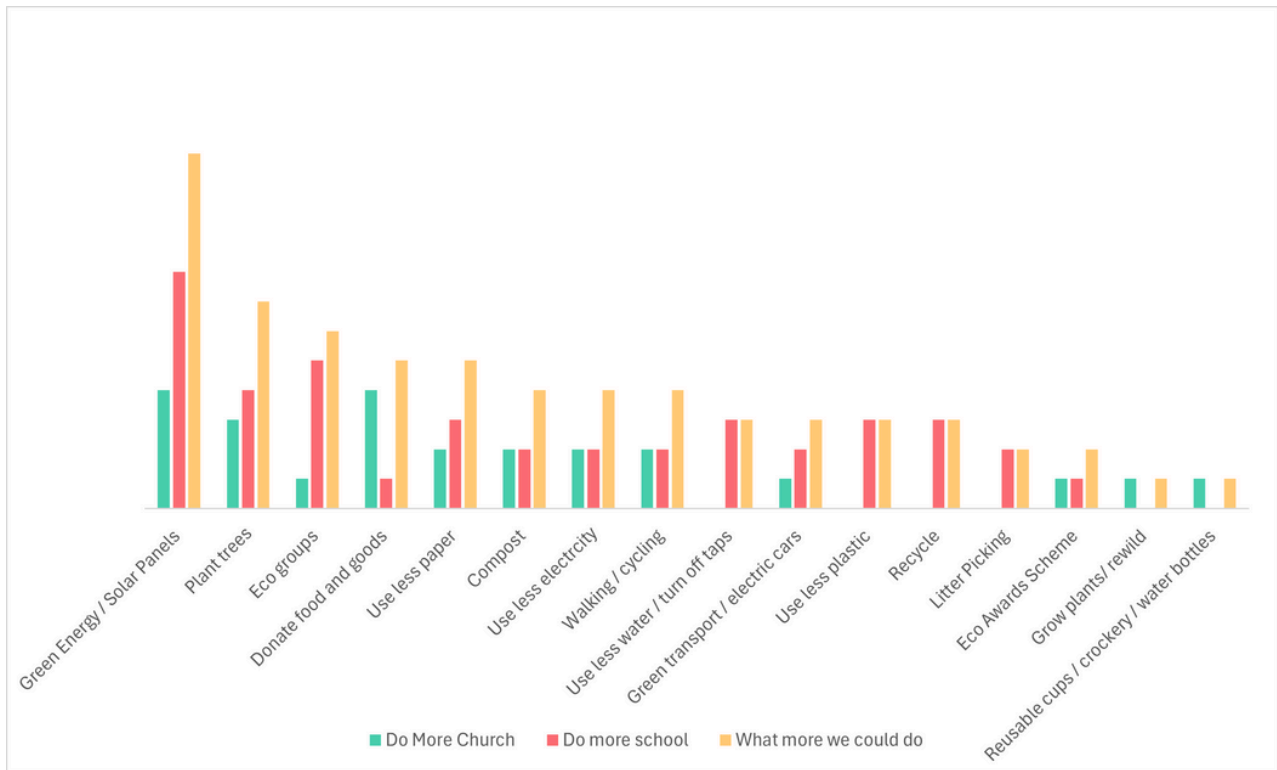


## What we found:

- **Recycling** was the top answer in both school and church
- **Walking / cycling** second top answer in both school and church
- **Use less electricity** third top answer in both school and church
- Reusables, growing plants and eco groups also featured



# What **more** could we do to tackle climate change in school & church



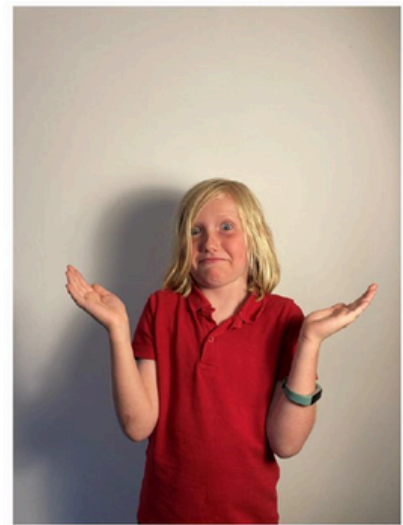
## What we found:

- **Solar panels / green energy** was the top answer in school & church
- **Plant trees** featured highly in both school and church
- Start **eco groups** was second top answer in schools
- **Donate** food and goods joint top answer for church groups

# ROUND 02

Yes. No. Dunno!?

**What we did:** Participants were invited to use a posture to answer - yes, no or don't know - to a series of climate related questions...



Do you ever talk about climate change at school?

Do you ever talk about climate change at church?

Are you worried about climate change?

Do you think God cares about climate change?

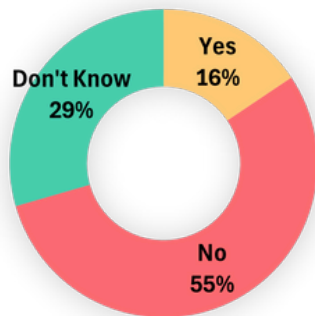
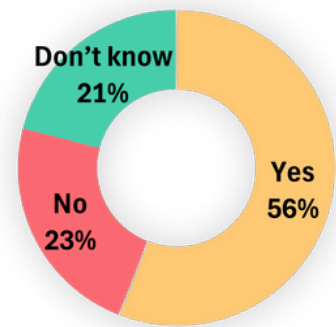
Do you think climate change is connected to faith?

Do you think your school is doing enough to tackle climate change?

Do you think your church is doing enough to tackle climate change?

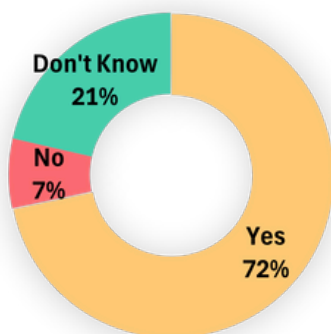
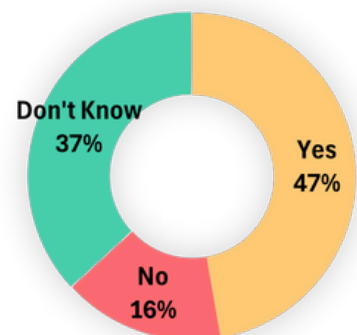
Do you think you are doing enough to tackle climate change at home?

Do you talk about climate change in **school**?



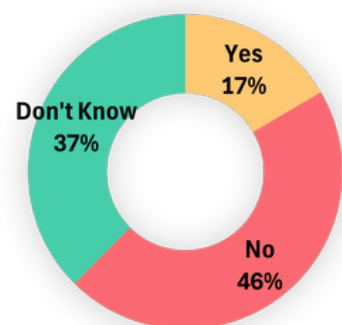
Do you talk about climate change in **church**?

Are you **worried** about climate change?

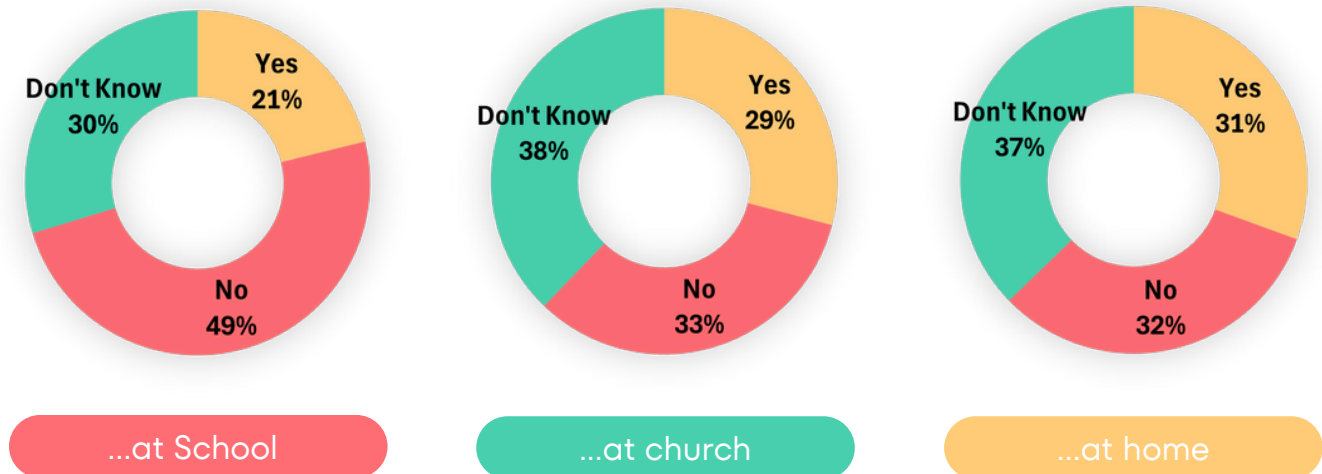


Do you think God **cares** about climate change?

Do you think climate change is connected to **faith**?



# Are we **doing enough** to tackle climate change...



## What we found:

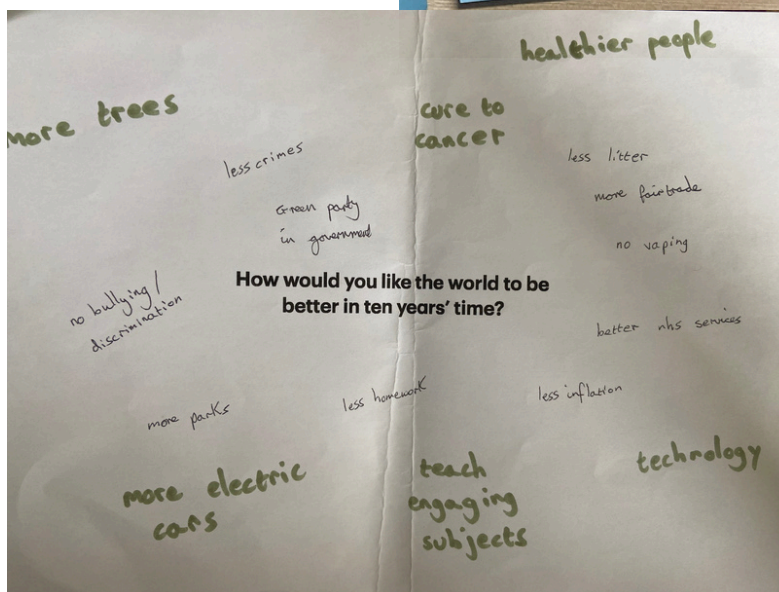
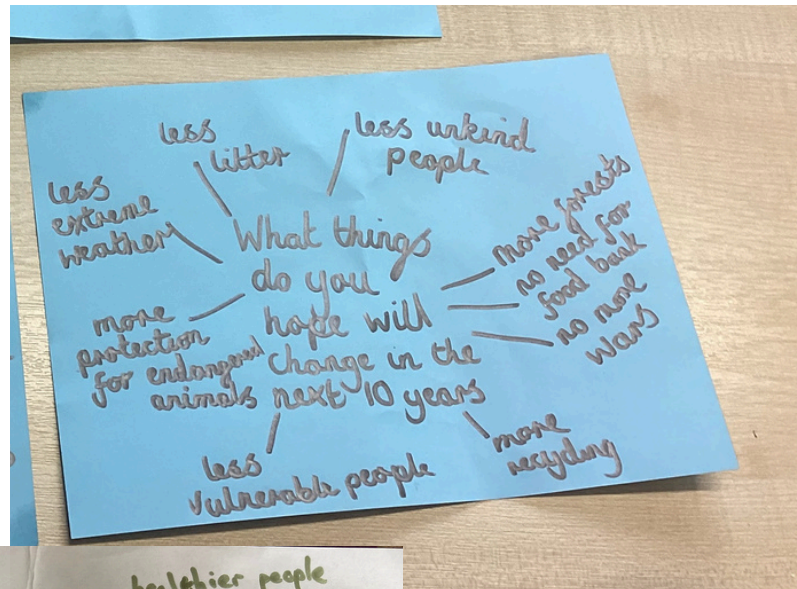
- **56%** of participants said they talked about climate change in school, **only 16% in church**
- 47% of participants are **worried** about climate change
- **72%** of participants think **God cares** about climate change, but only **17%** think climate change is connected to **faith**
- 21% of participants think their school is doing enough to tackle climate change, **49% not**
- 29% of participants think their church is doing enough to tackle climate change, 33% not

# ROUND 03

## Big Bluesky Question?

**What we did:** Groups were asked to consider a big question. Participants were invited to stare at the sky (or out of a window) while they pondered... then invited to share aloud or write down their responses.

***How would you like the world to be better in ten years' time?***



How would you like the world to be better in ten years' time?

**67%**  
of groups

Stop deforestation / cutting down trees

**47%**  
of groups

No litter. No fossil fuels. Electric cars

**40%**  
of groups

No war. No smoking (vaping). More trees

Shoutouts to those young voices who prophetically responded...

**"CURE FOR CANCER  
EDUCATION FOR ALL  
GREEN GOVERNMENT  
HOVERBOARDS"**



# QUESTIONS? ACTIONS? WHAT NEXT?



Reflecting on the responses from listening groups, Bishops Children & Youth Council identified the following key questions to ask Bishop Martyn:

## **GREEN ENERGY**

How can schools & churches move away from fossil fuels? Where can they access funding to help install green energy and solar panels?

## **TALK MORE IN CHURCH**

Only 16% of participants said they talked about climate in church – we need to talk about this more in church! What ideas do you have to change this?

## **PLANT MORE TREES**

How might schools and churches work together to plant more trees?

## **A FAITH ISSUE!?**

72% of participants think God cares about climate change! Only 17% think climate change is a faith issue. Why do you think this is? And what can we do?

## **ECO GROUPS IN SCHOOL**

How could churches help support schools to set up more eco groups?

# Responding to the voice

## So what actually happens next?

This report will be shared with Bishops Leadership Team, listening groups, and published on Leicester Diocese website.

Bishop Martyn will be invited to respond to the key questions raised in the report via video. Bishop Martyn's video response will be shared with participants and published on Leicester Diocese website.



[leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc](https://leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc)

We want to hear more young voices from across the Diocese! Could you facilitate a listening group with children or young people in your context?

Email [Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org](mailto:Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org) - for more info and resources.

## Contributors

### Round Design

Glow Youth Club based at Holy Trinity Leicester

### Reporting

Mary Watts shared findings from this report at an Eco Church Conversations event on Saturday 14th Sept.

### Resource

Nadine Weedall  
SEND Chaplain. Learn-AT  
Matt Long  
Youth Engagement