

School Briefing #3

Environment and Climate Change Findings

The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder research study surveyed over 8,400 secondary school pupils aged 12–15 across Bradford, gathering their views on environment, air pollution and climate change. Your school's participation made these important findings possible. The findings are based on data collected over 2023/2024 academic year.

Key Findings

- 1 Nearly half of students (49%) feel neither positive nor negative about the environment's future.** This suggests many are undecided rather than explicitly negative (32%).
- 2 Over a third of students (36%) rated Bradford's air quality as "poor" or "very poor".** Air pollution exposure, PM_{2.5} and NO₂ remained above WHO recommended limits in 2018 (5 and 10 µg/m³ vs 9 and 18 µg/m³)
- 3 Concern about climate change varies between groups.** Older students expressed more concern than younger students; Girls reported more negative views than boys; White British students expressed higher concern than Pakistani British students.
- 4 What students want more of:**
 - Discussions around climate in lessons and with peers, not just in assemblies
 - A focus on integrating climate positive behaviours & action into schools, e.g. recycling bins and climate-friendly product design competition

Why this matters

Climate change was viewed seriously by adolescents and schools are the ideal setting to promote climate positive behaviours, both in terms of curriculum content and practical engagement activities.



Next steps for schools

- 1 Share the findings with staff**
Use this brief to discuss what the findings mean for your school context.
- 2 Communicate with students & parents**
Use this brief to inform your students and their parents about the research as well as your school's involvement.

"I think people need to realise that there's still hope left and still we can make changes"

- Female, White British, 14 years old

Contact us

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Thank you to the schools and students for their ongoing participation!