

Week 9: What is the Our Schools, Our World programme (OSOW)?

A couple of weeks ago, Kamini, Manpreet, Shahnaz and I attended the introductory training for the Our Schools, Our World programme which has been introduced to Brent.

We are 1 of 20 schools in Brent who have signed up to take part in the programme, a nationally respected whole school approach to sustainability, developed in Brighton & Hove over the last two years.

We will part of a wider network of schools sharing practice across Brent, Bedfordshire, Devon, Leicester and Brighton & Hove.

As you know, this is specifically outlined in the School Development Plan, and T&L and Curriculum Development Plan, and Science Development Plan, however it is relevant to other development plans e.g. College Leaders' Uniform Sale, PSHE, and the Active Travel Plan.

The Paris Agreement (2016) outlined a global warming limit of 1.5°C but aiming to be well below 2°C. We need to be within 1.5°C.

Unfortunately, this year, we are projected to breach the limit of 1.5°C global warming limit, reaching 1.55°C.

By 2050 we are projected to reach 2°C, and by 2100 we are projected to reach 4°C.

At some point, Earth will reach a Tipping Point which is the point of no return. This means that there will be a point when we won't be able to maintain/cool the global temperature, and we don't know what that point is.

Before I completely ruin your weekend, it's important to know that we can still do something about this. Schools are at the core of the community, and the 20 schools in Brent alone, can impact over 5500 children, over 800 staff and many more families. We have a moral purpose and moral responsibility to be part of the effort to tackle our climate emergency, and that is why we are taking part in the Our Schools, Our World programme to make a difference.

The four main aims of OSOW programme:

- 'Greening' the curriculum – believe it or not, this can be done across all subjects.
- Enabling children to develop a close connection with nature (surprisingly, 75% of children spend more time inside than people in prison!)
- Creating school organisation systems and practices which support sustainability and the school and regional Carbon Neutral 2030 targets.
- Empowering children to become change makers at home and at school.

We'll be introducing the programme this year through staff training and assemblies so watch this space!

What are you doing in your role to be 'greener'?



**Our Schools,
Our World**

