A MASS LOBBY FOR OUR CLIMATE, NATURE, AND PEOPLE.

WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 1PM, WESTMINSTER LONDON

Do your pupils care about the environment? Would they like to make their views on this issue known? They can join a mass lobby in London, where thousands of people will meet with MPs to ask for action.

TO BRING A DELEGATION FROM YOUR SCHOOL, PLEASE SIGN UP AT THETIMEISNOWMAP.CO.UK AND REMEMBER TO TICK THE BOX TO LET US KNOW THAT YOU ARE A TEACHER!
We know that young people care passionately about climate change and nature. The future of the world in which they are growing up is at stake: the planet is warming; ice sheets and glaciers are melting; wildfires and storms rage across the globe; the oceans are choked with plastic; millions of precious species face extinction. Young people are telling us that this is not the sort of world that they want to inherit.

At the heart of this issue is a generational as well as geographical injustice: those who bear least responsibility for climate change and environmental ruin will be the worst affected by it.

"YES, WE ARE FAILING, BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO TURN EVERYTHING AROUND—WE CAN STILL FIX THIS. BUT I WANT YOU TO ACT AS IF THE HOUSE WAS ON FIRE. BECAUSE IT IS."

—Greta Thunberg, teenage climate activist

HOPE IS NOT LOST: IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATURAL WORLD

In fact lots of businesses, cities, countries and people are already doing just that. The Government needs to listen to the concerns of citizens young and old and take urgent action now. The recent school strikes have demonstrated the depth of feeling that young people have for action on climate change and the environment—the mass lobby provides schools with an opportunity to engage positively with that passion and channel it into citizenship learning within the school community.

PUPILS CAN MAKE THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN

The Climate Coalition and Greener UK’s joint mass lobby of Parliament on 26th June will give pupils an opportunity to put their active citizenship skills into action and engage directly with our country’s democratic processes. They will see where our Government sits, learn more about issues affecting the environment, witness politicians engaging in conversation with their constituents—and hopefully meet their own MPs.
WHAT IS A MASS LOBBY?

In the UK, we are governed by representative democracy: we vote for our politicians in General Elections, and then they make decisions and laws on our behalf.

Each of us has a Member of Parliament (MP)—that’s the person who was voted into Parliament from our local area. Although people can only start to vote once they are 18, for younger people the local MP is still their representative in Government. It’s important to understand that our MP is there to represent us—that’s their job—so we need to tell them what we want. Not many people contact their MP; only a handful write letters or go and meet their MP in person, so getting in touch with your MP can be a very powerful way to have an impact on the issues you care about.

The art of persuading politicians to listen to your point of view is called ‘lobbying’. Just imagine the impact that a mass lobby—thousands of citizens turning up to talk to their MPs all at once—can have!

Schools are required, as part of SMSC provision, to promote British values. This includes an understanding of democracy. It’s really important that pupils understand both the issues and the democratic systems that underpin the mass lobby. This should be an opportunity for pupils to actively engage with decision-makers and make their voices heard on an issue that they care about. Sometimes young people feel that they are not powerful enough for their views to be heard or taken seriously by politicians. We say: that could not be further from the truth. Politicians are very keen to hear from the next generation of voters and are well-aware of the growing calls for environmental action from schoolchildren.
THE TIME IS NOW LOBBY

WHY NOW?

THIS SUMMER WILL SEE THE GOVERNMENT MAKE SOME HUGE DECISIONS:

- Decide whether to commit to end the UK’s contribution to climate change by setting a net zero emissions target.
- Propose ambitious new laws which would clean up our air, slash plastic pollution and restore wildlife to our countryside.

THAT MAKES THIS A KEY MOMENT TO TELL THEM TO START GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTING AND RESTORING NATURE

BE A PART OF IT

The Climate Coalition and Greener UK represent groups of organisations and their supporters who all care passionately about climate change and the environment. This includes supporters of all ages from different faith groups, charities, conservation groups and community groups across the UK.

We are all coming together on June 26th in London, right at the heart of Westminster where our Government sits, to tell politicians that we want urgent action to tackle global climate change and stronger laws to protect the environment here in the UK. It will be an opportunity for young people to express their own ideas and responses to the environmental challenges we face.
GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

WHO SHOULD I BRING?

We recommend that each school brings a small delegation of around five pupils. This will enable us to manage numbers and reach out to the maximum number of MPs. It will also enable peer-to-peer learning as the delegation shares their experience on their return to school.

THE SCHOOL ZONE

School groups who have registered to join the lobby will be meeting at Old Paradise Gardens (SE11 6AL), a small public park in Lambeth, where there will be a separate area for them to gather and await their meetings with MPs. This space is very close to the Houses of Parliament and in the heart of the action, but distinct from the general crowd to ensure the safety of children and young people who are waiting to join the mass lobby, which starts at 1pm.

We will have lots of activities and information to help pupils understand and engage with the issues in the School Zone in Old Paradise Gardens. School groups will leave the School Zone to join the public lobby line along the banks of the Thames and meet their MPs—schools can come and go from the School Zone as they wish. Old Paradise Gardens is a public park that will be open all day—and the School Zone will be open from 12PM for schools that arrive early.

Please remember to sign up at thetimeisnowmap.co.uk if you plan to come, ticking the box that asks if you are a school group. We will only be able to accommodate registered schools in the School Zone.

See the following page for the locations of Old Paradise Gardens and the lobby line. The lobby line maps shows the approximate location of your MP meeting. Please ensure you contact your MP beforehand and invite them to join you in the lobby line between 1pm and 4pm. You can find the contact details for your school’s local MP at parliament.uk.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED BUT CAN’T MAKE IT TO LONDON?

That’s not a problem! All schools are welcome to engage with the mass lobby, whether or not they can make it to London on 26th June.

If you can’t attend, do still contact your MP and invite them into school—or see if you can take a delegation to meet them at their constituency office.
THE SCHOOL ZONE

The School Zone is located in Old Paradise Gardens and will be open between 12pm and 4pm. Schools can come and go from the School Zone. Schools should arrange a time to meet their MP with other constituents in the lobby line (see the Lobby Line key for information on the approximate location of other constituents from your area—this will be the approximate location for meeting with your MP at a previously-arranged time).
**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PREPARE?**

**PLAN THE TRIP**

Please ensure that you have registered your school’s attendance on thetimeisnowmap.co.uk. Note that schools will be responsible for booking their own transport and ensuring that relevant permissions and insurance are in place for all pupils. If you would like a copy of the risk assessment as guidance, advice on coach parking, or other logistical questions, please email campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org.

**LEARN ABOUT THE ISSUES**

It’s really important that pupils understand the issues affecting the environment. This event is an educational opportunity to learn about and reflect upon democratic processes and how pupils can participate in this to put their views across.

**HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE ORGANISATIONS WHERE YOU CAN FIND TEACHING MATERIALS, SUCH AS ASSEMBLIES, GAMES AND LESSON PLANS:**

- Action For Conservation (Secondary)
- CAFOD (Primary and Secondary)
- Christian Aid (Primary and Secondary)
- Oxfam (Primary and Secondary)
- WWF (Primary and Secondary)
- The Association for Science Education

**CONTACT YOUR MP AND LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE GOING AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET THEM THERE**

Include a written message from the pupils if you can and ask your MP to let you know what time they plan to meet you and other constituents in the lobby line. This is really important as it will enable you to know approximately when to leave the School Zone and go to meet your MP. You can find their contact details at parliament.uk.

**PREPARE YOUR PUPILS TO MEET THEIR MP**

Make sure they know who their MP is and what their roles and responsibilities are. Encourage pupils to think of the questions they want to ask her or him. Make sure they think about how best to communicate effectively with decision-makers—there are some tips on page 10.

*If the MP can’t meet with you in the lobby line, you can still come and soak up the atmosphere of the day and engage with all the activities that we have on offer in the school zone —and share this with the MP on your return to school.*
ON THE DAY

Make sure that pupils bring sufficient food and water, plus any relevant medications, and that they dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Sensible shoes are a must as there will be a lot of standing and walking. The School Zone will have some limited cover, but it is in an outdoor park and so it’s important that you dress appropriately for the weather and bring umbrellas or sun hats/sun cream if required. Please note that we would like to keep this a low-environmental-impact day, so encourage pupils to bring refillable water bottles etc.

Old Paradise Gardens (SE11 6AL) is a public park and will be open all day if you need to arrive early. The School Zone will be cordoned off and will be open from 12PM – 4PM. There will be a rolling programme of activities there, but you don’t have to stay for the whole time and can come and go as you wish.

SAFEGUARDING

Old Paradise Gardens is a small, walled public park. There will be public access through it during the day, but the School Zone area will be cordoned off. The School Zone area will be set up by a professional events company and managed by Climate Coalition member staff and stewards on the day—and all staff and stewards in that zone will be DBS-checked.

When school groups leave the School Zone to join the lobby lines, they will be out ‘in public’ and joining groups of adult constituents and supporters to meet with their MPs. Please be aware that this part of central London is busy and will be especially so on the day of the mass lobby. The behaviour, safety and security of pupils attending will remain the responsibility of trip leaders from respective schools at all times, which is another reason why we recommend keeping school groups small and manageable (we recommend a maximum of five pupils per school).

AT 2PM WE WILL PAUSE FOR A MINUTE IN THE LOBBY LINE TO CREATE A NOISE SO LOUD POLITICIANS WON’T BE ABLE TO IGNORE IT

At 2 o’clock, we will be making a lot of noise to make sure that MPs hear us. We’re encouraging all supporters to bring along alarm clocks to sound at 2pm. If you don’t have enough alarm clocks for all your delegates, could you bring whistles, bells or klaxons for them to sound?

We will do our best to keep you entertained while you wait for your MP to meet you and other constituents in the lobby line. Feel free to come and go from the School Zone as you please, just make sure you sign in and out. If you don’t get to meet with your MP on the day, make sure you follow up with them afterwards.
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AFTER?

A REALLY CRUCIAL PART OF THE DAY WILL BE SHARING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED WITH OTHERS WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE:

• ASK PUPILS TO WRITE A REPORT FOR THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER
• ADAPT AND SEND OUT THE PRESS RELEASE ON PAGE 13 TO LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS
• SHARE DETAILS OF THE DAY ON THE SCHOOL’S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS
• HOLD AN ASSEMBLY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER PUPILS, STAFF AND PARENTS. YOU COULD EVEN INVITE THE MP TO TALK AT THE ASSEMBLY ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE SINCE MEETING PUPILS AT THE LOBBY!

CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH THE SCHOOL COULD ADVANCE ITS OWN SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES. YOU COULD ASK THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OR ECO-GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THESE:

• DOES THE SCHOOL RUN ON RENEWABLE ENERGY? (IF NOT, COULD YOU MAKE THE CASE FOR THIS TO DECISION-MAKERS?)
• HAS THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY YET, AS MANY OTHERS HAVE DONE? (IF NOT, WOULD PUPILS WANT TO PETITION THEM TO DO SO?)
• IS THERE AN ECO-GROUP AND WHAT IS IT UP TO?

• WRITE TO YOUR MP TO EITHER THANK THEM FOR MEETING WITH YOU, OR TO INVITE THEM INTO SCHOOL TO HEAR ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE AND YOUR CLIMATE MESSAGE IF THEY WERE UNABLE TO JOIN YOU ON THE DAY
MAKE IT PERSONAL

Tell them your personal story. What led you to feel passionately about this and why are you here today?

BE CONFIDENT!

You don’t need to be an expert but make sure you are clear that you care about these issues and that you want them to act. You can use your age to your advantage and tell them that it is their responsibility to ensure that they look after the world that young people like you will inherit.

TALK ABOUT THE REAL WORLD AND NOT ABSTRACT IDEAS

Use meaningful and emotive words and explain why you care so much about it.

BE POLITE

Remember that everyone responds best when people treat them with good manners (and politicians are no different!)

ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

Remember there will be a group of you chatting to your MP so encourage others to speak and make sure everyone’s views are heard - but also be confident to speak up yourself; your view is important too and politicians should be interested in what you have to say.

DON’T FORGET TO GIVE THE MP TIME TO RESPOND

But be clear what you are asking them to do. Everyone likes to have a good conversation but remember that this is a really good opportunity for you to explain your environmental concerns to someone with the power to take action on your behalf.
PUPIL WORKSHEET: I SPY

CAN YOU SPOT THESE THINGS ON YOUR TRIP TO JOIN THE MASS LOBBY?

- A BIRD
- BIG BEN
- AN MP
- RIVER THAMES
- A LONDON TAXI
- LAMBETH BRIDGE
- LITTER
- A BICYCLE
- A FUNNY OR MOVING PLACARD

What did it say?

MAKE NOTES HERE ABOUT QUESTIONS THAT YOU WANT TO ASK YOUR MP:

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PUPIL WORKSHEET: REFLECTIVE JOURNAL

USE THESE BOXES TO RECORD PICTURES, WORDS, THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS THAT YOU HAVE ON THE DAY

MY FAVOURITE PART OF TODAY WAS...

TALKING TO MY MP MADE ME FEEL...

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT...

I FEEL INSPIRED TO KEEP TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE BY...

THE BEST THING I LEARNED WAS...
PUPILS FROM [SCHOOL NAME] ATTEND MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT TO CALL FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[Insert photo(s) of pupils at lobby. If you are including pictures of pupils, please ensure you have relevant permissions and only include images of children for whom you have those permissions]

Example caption: Pupils at St Margaret’s School call for climate action outside Parliament

Pupils and staff from [insert school name] have taken their call for climate and environmental action to the heart of Government.

Along with thousands of other supporters of the Climate Coalition and Greener UK, they converged on Westminster on 26th June to meet with MPs and demand an urgent response to the environmental and climate crisis.

These pupils joined campaigners from across the UK to ask politicians to commit to end the UK’s contribution to climate change by setting a net zero emissions target. Campaigners are also seeking ambitious new laws which would clean up our air, slash plastic pollution and restore wildlife to our countryside.

[Headteacher/trip lead in school to insert quote here. E.g.] xxxx said: “We recognise the passion that young people have for environmental and climate issues and we think it’s important that their voices on this matter are heard. After all, climate change is already impacting the world in which they are growing up – and we think it’s important that their views are considered by those with the power to make decisions that will hopefully limit the worst impacts of climate change and environmental destruction. [If you met your MP, you can mention them by name here]. Our school will be watching with interest to see how the Government now responds.”

One pupil who attended commented, “[Insert pupil comment]”. Please be mindful of child protection and do not include child’s full name.

Lindsay Smith, Campaign Manager at The Climate Coalition, said: “It’s so inspiring to see school pupils engaging with politicians in this way. We know that young people feel very passionately about the protection of nature and climate change – and we’re delighted to see them articulate those feelings to people in power. Decision-makers must now heed the call and pass legislation to protect the natural world on our doorsteps and further afield and end our contribution to climate change through a net zero target.”

The Government will be making important decisions about setting a target for net zero emissions and legislating for stronger environmental laws later in the year.