

BE VOCAL

About this session

Find a day (or more) in the school calendar to gather messages from children and young people to Alok Sharma, President of COP26, and his colleagues in government to encourage bold climate commitments.

In November, the UK is hosting more than 200 world leaders at a conference called COP26 to discuss action on climate change. This is our chance to tell our leaders how important we think action on climate change is and what we want them to do.

We all need to act now to help our country and our global neighbours who are experiencing extreme climate effects. What will we say to our world leaders about action to protect the world from climate change?

This classroom activity encourages children to engage with their local MP ahead of COP26 and consider the collective impact of using their voice to speak up for the planet.

Pupil videos and letters will be collated and shared with Alok Sharma.

- **Watch Theresa May and Bishop Steven talk about Parliament and writing to MPs.**
- **Download the accompanying constituencies map for pupils to find out who their MP is.**
- **Hold a debate in the classroom – ask questions of one another about why climate action is important.**
- **Fill in the pupil cards with messages to your MPs.**
- **Share pictures of the classroom activities and lesson plans to inspire other schools on our ideas bank.**

Session outcome

- Explore the significance of the COP26 Climate Change Conference.
- Understand the role of MPs and Houses of Parliament.
- Discover who the local constituency MP is.
- Encourage children and families to engage with and write to their local MP with a copy of their message to Alok Sharma.

Lesson plans and sources of information

Children can share their messages for Alok Sharma and their local MPs using a variety of forms including letters, poetry, film, drama, dance or art. You can even share your messages with us via the Diocese of Oxford website and we will send them on.

We have two videos to watch from the former Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, talking about writing to your MP and Bishop Steven about climate change and the role of the House of Lords.

oxford.anglican.org/be-the-change

There are many additional resources available to help children understand COP26 and climate change and spark ideas for contacting their MP.

- COP26 Guide for Kids
natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/what-is-cop26-glasgow
- Together for our Planet Schools Pack
together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/schools-pack-resources

BE THE CHANGE

- World Wildlife Fund Climate Explainer
wwwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/WWF_Climate_Explainer.pdf
- The Houses of Parliament
learning.parliament.uk/en/resources

- Find my local MP
members.parliament.uk/members/commons

For additional teacher-curated COP26 classroom resources, try twinkl.co.uk/cop26

Go deeper... check out letsgozero.org, greenschoolsproject.org.uk and eco-schools.org.uk

What worked well?

Share your lesson plans and pictures of classroom activities to inspire others.
oxford.anglican.org/environment

A message to send home

In November, the UK will host an event that many believe is the world's best last chance to get runaway climate change under control. The children will be learning about the COP26 climate conference this term and thinking about how they can make a difference to the planet:

- Be Carbon Free looks at our carbon footprint as individuals, as families, and as a school.
- This month, we're learning about the message we want to send to world leaders and MPs, in particular, the Chair of COP26, Alok Sharma, MP.
- Be Plastic Free, will look at ways we can reduce our single use plastic at home and in school.
- Be Glitter Free, will plan a glitter-free Christmas. If you're a family that plans ahead, do try to only purchase recyclable wrapping paper this year!

Talking with children about climate change can feel overwhelming for them and their grown-ups, but even the smallest child can understand that there's something powerful about the actions we can take without them feeling that all the world's problems being all on their shoulders.

One of these actions is using our voices to speak up for the planet. This is something we can all do. The children have watched videos from Theresa May MP and Bishop Steven and written to their MP to take action on climate change. Here are some of the things they have asked:

- Plant more trees
- End the use of plastic bags in supermarkets
- Build more cycle paths
- Improve bus and train services



Download classroom posters and pupil resources at oxford.anglican.org/environment

BE VOCAL

Classroom worksheet

Can children find out who their MP is?

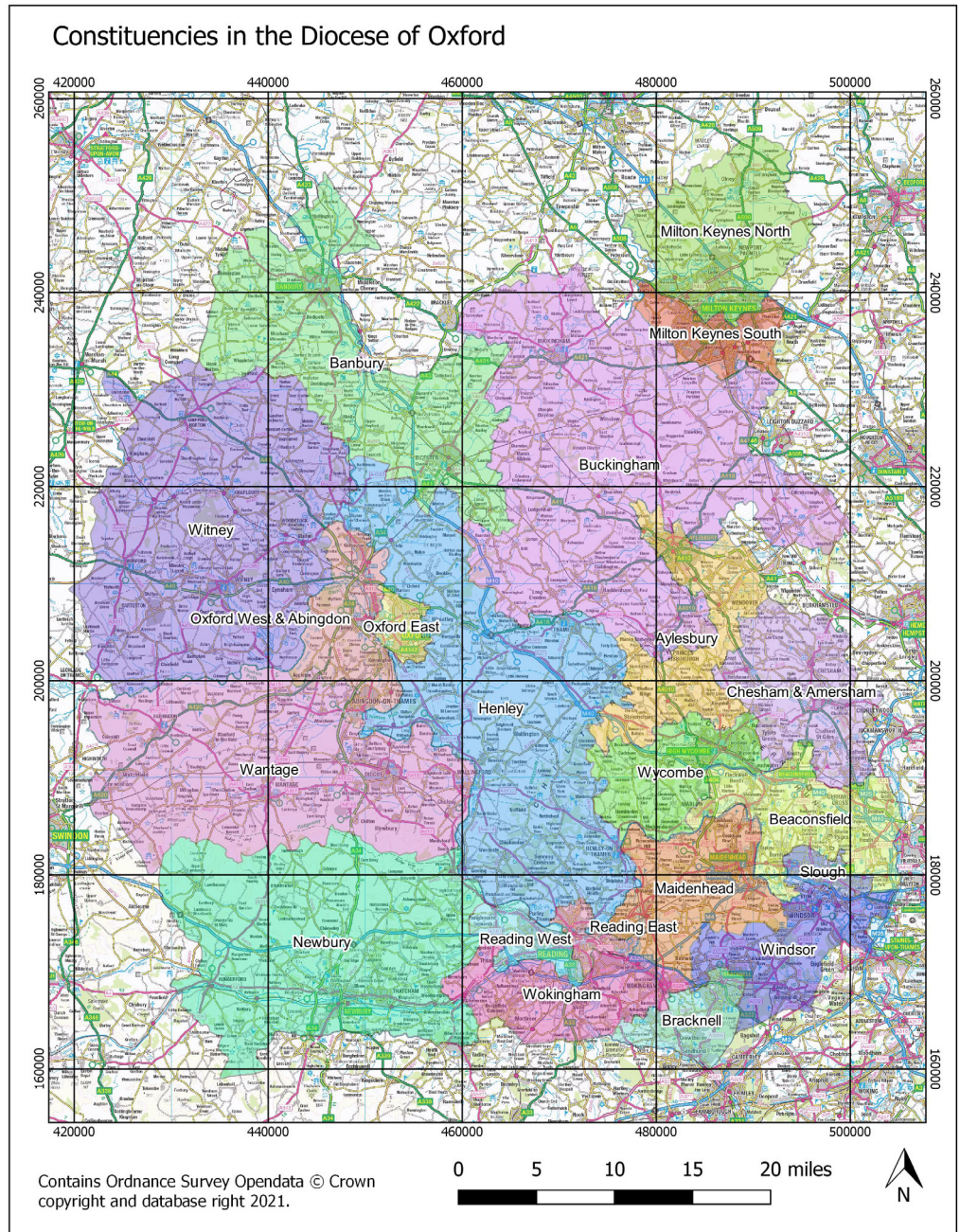
How many constituencies are covered by the pupils in your class?

Who is your Church of England bishop? There are four Church of England bishops in the Diocese of Oxford:

- The Bishop of Oxford
- The Bishop of Buckingham
- The Bishop of Dorchester
- The Bishop of Reading

Which one goes where on the map?

Do you have a message for them about how the local churches in your area could help our environment?



BE THE CHANGE