PERSPECTIVES ON YOUNG PEOPLE, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SURVEY RESEARCH WITH THE UK GENERAL PUBLIC



SUMMARY



The survey was conducted by Opinium Research on behalf of SOS-UK in November 2022. 2000 UK adults participated in the survey with results weighted to be nationally representative.

Respondents think it is important to prepare children and young people for environmental issues at school, including...



...the nature crisis

...challenges for humanity resulting from climate change and/or nature crisis

...climate change

78%

76%

76%

As a result of young people they know learning about environmental issues at school, respondents reported...

Understanding more about environmental issues

Made changes to daily behaviour to reduce impact

Increased desire to change behaviour to reduce impact

More involvement in community to tackle environmental issues

23%

21%

21%

8%

74%

agree it is important for governments, businesses and other community organisations to develop opportunities for young people to tackle environmental issues





FINDINGS IN DETAIL



Over three quarters of respondents think it is important that children and young people are prepared for climate change at school

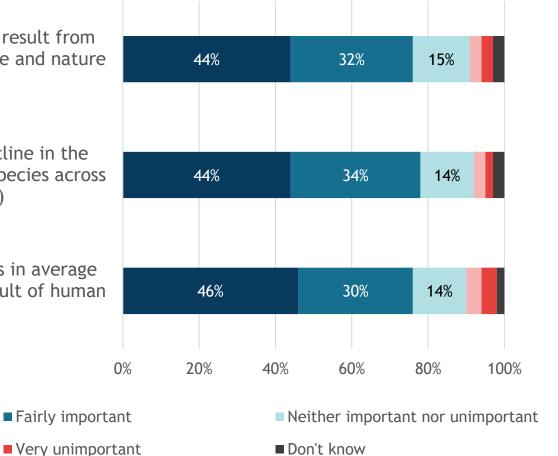


Nature crisis (the rapid decline in the number of plant and animal species across the natural world)

Climate change (the shifts in average weather conditions as a result of human activity)

■ Very important

Fairly unimportant



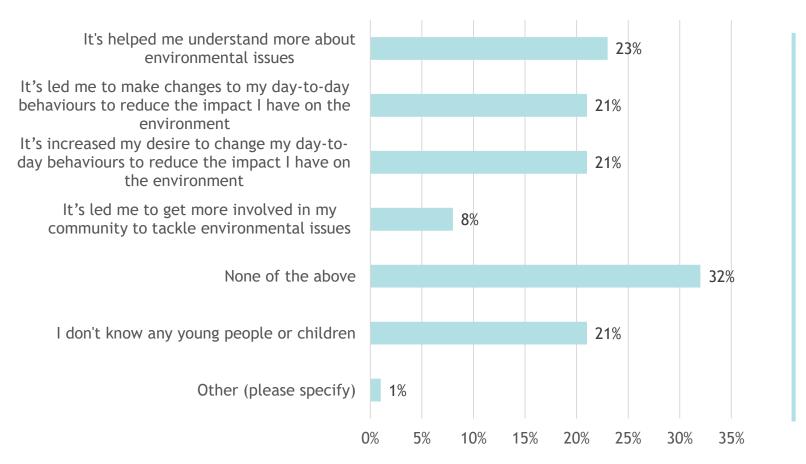
Differences by age and gender:

- Respondents over 55 agreed more than respondents under 35 that it is very important for young people to be prepared for all three issues at school
- Female were more likely to agree it is very important for young people to be prepared for all three issues at school

Question: How important, if at all, do you think it is that children and young people are prepared for the following issues through their time at school? Base: 2000



Nearly a quarter of respondents said that they understand more about environmental issues as a result of children and young people they know learning about environmental issues at school



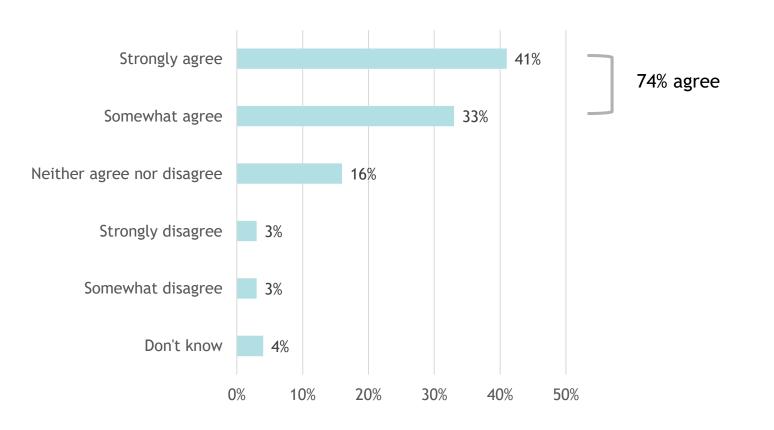
Differences by age and gender:

- Female respondents were more likely to agree that their desire to change their day-to day behaviours to reduce their impact on the environment has increased
- Respondents under 35 agreed more, across all statements, than respondents over 55

Question: Thinking about the children and young people you know, which of the following, if any, have you experienced as a result of them learning about environmental issues (such as climate change and the nature crisis) at school? Please select all that apply. Base: 2000



Nearly three quarters (74%) of respondents agree that governments, businesses and community organisations should develop opportunities for young people to play a part in tackling environmental issues



Differences by age and gender:

- 68% of male respondents agree and 81% of female respondents agree
- Respondents in the 18-34 age category were significantly less likely to agree than those in the 35-54 category

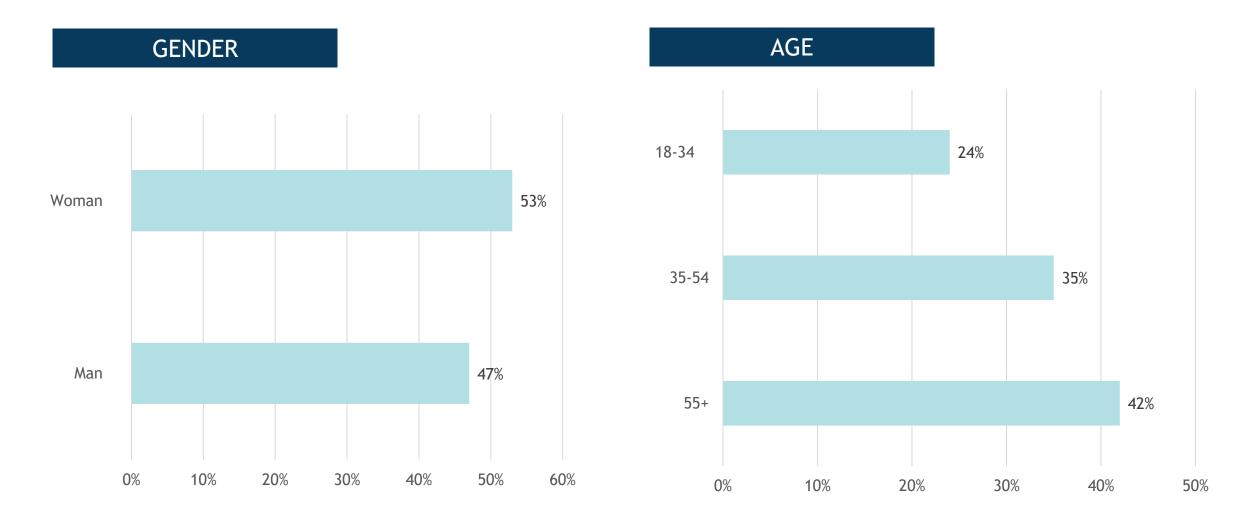
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "It is important for governments, businesses and other community organisations to develop opportunities for young people to play a part in tackling environmental issues such as climate change and the nature crisis." Base: 2000



DEMOGRPAHICS



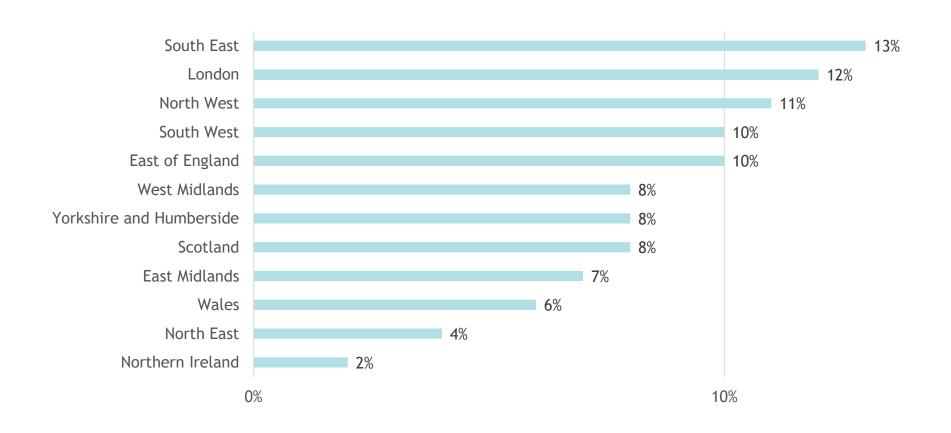
Over half of respondents are women and over two fifths of respondents are over 55





A quarter of respondents are from the South East of the UK or London

REGION





20%