



Getting Started with Climate Change Education

Audio Transcription

Original Podcast

BRIGHTER THINKING POD

Episode 44: Cultivating Green Shoots: A Practical Guide to Climate Change and Sustainability in Your School

<https://www.cambridge.org/gb/education/blog/2024/05/09/brighter-thinking-pod-ep-44-cultivating-green-shoots/>

Interviewee

Dr Mona Chiriac

Sustainability Education expert

So if education is about preparing our young for the future well, climate change is the main challenge, right? That is affecting us and that will affect us. So therefore, connecting high quality education with discussions about climate change and sustainability, with causes, with effects, with impacts, with solutions, with involvement, with caring about it, well, they go hand in hand because you can't prepare students for the future unless you prepare them for this, one of the most challenging things that we're dealing with at the moment, and we will continue to deal with. So that's potentially the first immediate link.

But the other one would probably be the fact that if we... So schools, they tell us what's important, they immediately transmit to students: 'This is important to talk about.' So if we ignore climate change and sustainability education in schools, then it's like almost explicitly telling and passing on the message that this is not important, this is not relevant. So I don't see how highly good quality education would ignore a discussion on climate change and sustainability.

And it's also about when we talk about preparing students to be in the world and for the future, it's this idea that the future is what we create, what we create now. And remember, we had that webinar a week ago for the Cambridge Schools Conference, and I was talking there about the fact that we don't land into the future unexpectedly. We build the future now. So we can't delay the discussion about climate change and sustainability education in schools, because what we work today on is what the future will look like. So to me, it's important to make those links.