

CITY BUZZ

FAMILY
WITH NIK FARAH



Climate change on the curriculum?

The name Greta Thunberg is trending once again.

The 16-year-old Swedish activist visited New York last month to continue her international youth movement against climate change. Along with 15 other young people, aged 8-17, she stood up at the United Nations to file a legal complaint against five countries currently not on track to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement emissions goals.

Which raises an interesting question, as we watch babies stand where adults should, what part should our children have in the fight against climate change? How much should we be teaching them in schools?

When it comes to our own children, the people of Sheffield have some strong

opinions, which they shared with us on The Star's Facebook page this week as we asked: **'Should we be making room in the primary school curriculum for climate change?'**

David French said: 'Of course! We should be taught from an early age how our actions have consequences and how we can live in balance and harmony with our planet rather than just taking from it.'

Kelsie Davies agreed: 'Absolutely. Start them young to protect and respect the planet.'

Michael Short added: 'Of course. There's no point learning about anything else if we can't live on the planet.'

'Why is this even a question?' demanded Matthew Parker. 'It's the same as asking if we should be including

Do your children learn about climate change and pollution in school? Do you spend time with them at home discussing the importance of things like recycling? Do you have any litter-picking heroes or eco-warrior little ones you'd like to tell us about? Email me at nik.farah@jpimedia.co.uk to share your stories and photos.



What do you think?

primary school children in the fight against illiteracy, by making room in the curriculum for reading.'

Colin Shoter said: '100 per cent, after all it's their planet.'

Many had concerns about children dealing with such serious issues at a young age, stipulating that care must be taken not to cause anxiety.

David Chinchen said: 'Yes, but please don't give them nightmares.'

Rebecca Louise Malin agreed: 'Teach but don't preach. Allow them a childhood.'

Ian Durnan said: 'Certainly not. There is too much non-essential adult information being forced onto children.'

Nigel Hodkin added: 'Let them have a childlike childhood.'

And a number of parents commented that their children are already learning about climate change in schools: Rebecca Crossland said: 'My daughter has been learning about the environment and pollution and that's great and appreciated.'

Jennifer Mohammed Jones said: 'My child is already taught about climate change in primary school. He's 8.'

Kerry Luisa Ogman added: 'My 9YO daughter is doing climate change this term as the classes special subject.'



Thousands of young people across the globe took part in a day of protest last

'If parents are detached about climate change, kids will be too'

"Young people are the custodians of the future," said Maxwell Ayamba, of Sheffield Environmental Movement.

"They have to be given the opportunity to understand how climate change will impact them. Instead of spending too much time playing video games and watching things that aren't going to be

making a difference to their lives, we should be encouraging them to watch people like Greta Thunberg and listen to what she has to say."

Maxwell launched Sheffield Environmental Movement in 2016, which aims to educate children on environmental issues.

Max said: "There are all

kinds of things children can get involved in as active citizens in their communities - from tree planting, and litter-picking, to recycling. If parents are detached about climate change, kids will be too, so it's important they engage their children in caring for the planet."

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Maxwell says parents must carry on the work being done in schools to engage children in the environment

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