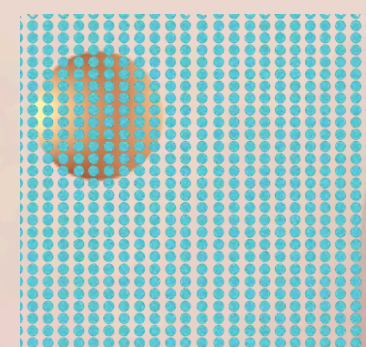




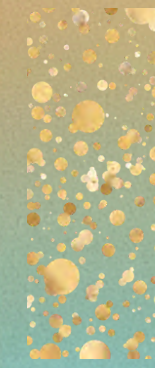
# CLIMATE TALES STAFF HANDBOOK

An International TAI TH STEAM Project



Focus:  
Drama Education for Climate  
Change

School:  
Ysgol Bryn Alyn





# Introducing Climate Tales



## Partner Countries

Wales • Turkey • France • Greece • Poland  
Our educational collaboration uses the arts to explore climate change through active, embodied, and collaborative learning. Drama engages both mind and heart, helping young people connect personally with global environmental challenges.

## Our International Partnership

Climate Tales brings together five nations in a groundbreaking TAITH STEAM collaboration. Through drama education and theatre, we engage young people with the complex realities of climate change. This arts-based approach transforms abstract environmental concepts into meaningful, personal experiences that resonate deeply with learners of all ages and backgrounds.



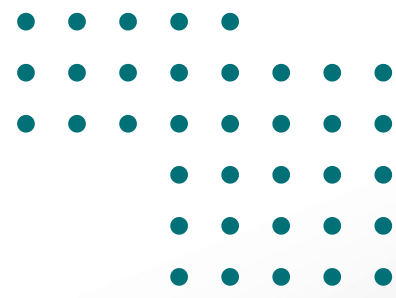
# Why Drama Education for Climate Change?

## The Challenge

Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing our world today. It can feel overwhelming, abstract, and emotionally challenging for young people to engage with. Traditional teaching methods often struggle to convey the urgency and interconnectedness of climate issues in ways that truly resonate with students.

## The Drama Solution

Drama education offers active, embodied, and collaborative learning that engages both mind and heart. Through role-play, improvisation, and storytelling, students develop empathy, deeper understanding, and personal connection to climate themes. This approach transforms abstract concepts into lived experiences, building agency and hope.



# Research Evidence

## Key Findings

Eva Göksel's 2020 research on drama-based pedagogy demonstrates that embodied learning helps students process emotionally challenging topics like climate change. Through physical engagement, learners develop deeper understanding and personal connection to complex environmental issues.



## Educational Impact

Drama pedagogy promotes collaborative exploration and shared meaning-making. Students work together to construct understanding through role-play and physical expression, building both cognitive comprehension and emotional resilience when facing difficult climate realities.





# International Collaboration and Mobility



## Cultural Exchange

Partners from Wales, Turkey, France, Greece, and Poland come together to share knowledge, traditions, and creative approaches to climate education through the TAITH STEAM project.



## Shared Learning

Cross-cultural collaboration enhances understanding and communication skills. Teachers and students learn from diverse perspectives, enriching their educational experience and building lasting connections.



## Global Perspectives

Working across borders builds awareness of how climate change affects different communities. Students develop empathy and understanding of global challenges through international partnership.



## Deep Understanding

Drama-based pedagogy enables deep understanding of complex climate issues through embodiment. When students physically engage with concepts, they develop meaningful connections that transcend surface-level learning.

## Memory & Retention

Active learning through drama creates strong memory and retention. Physical engagement activates multiple neural pathways, making climate concepts more memorable and personally relevant to young learners.

## Critical Thinking

Role-play and scenario analysis develop critical and ethical thinking skills. Students explore moral dilemmas, weigh consequences, and practice decision-making in safe, supportive environments that mirror real-world complexity.

# Educational Benefits

Drama-based pedagogy transforms abstract climate concepts into lived experiences. Through embodied learning, students physically inhabit scenarios, developing intuitive understanding that lectures alone cannot achieve.





## Collaboration & Teamwork

Drama activities require students to work together toward shared goals, building trust and mutual responsibility. Group exercises foster cooperation, negotiation skills, and the ability to contribute meaningfully within a team setting.

## Empathy Development

Through role immersion and character work, students develop deep perspective-taking abilities. By embodying different viewpoints on climate issues, learners build genuine empathy and understanding for diverse experiences and circumstances.

## Cross-Cultural Communication

International collaboration across Wales, Turkey, France, Greece, and Poland develops communication skills that transcend language barriers. Students learn to express ideas clearly and listen actively across diverse cultural contexts.

# Building Social Skills

Drama education creates meaningful opportunities for students to develop interpersonal skills through collaborative creative work. These social competencies transfer directly to real-world interactions and future workplace environments.





## Safe Exploration

Drama creates protected spaces where students can safely explore climate anxiety without feeling overwhelmed. Through fictional scenarios and role-play, learners process difficult emotions in a supportive environment that validates their concerns.

## Confidence & Agency

Active participation in drama builds student confidence and a genuine sense of agency. When young people take on roles and make meaningful choices, they develop belief in their ability to contribute to positive change in the world.

## Belonging

Collaborative drama work fosters deep connections among participants. Students develop a sense of belonging and shared purpose as they work together on climate themes, building community and collective responsibility for our planet.

# Emotional Benefits

Drama education nurtures emotional wellbeing by helping students feel heard, valued, and empowered. The Climate Tales approach ensures every learner can engage meaningfully with climate issues while developing resilience and hope for the future.





# Inclusion and Access



## Multiple Participation Modes

Drama education values both body and mind, offering diverse ways to participate. Students can engage through movement, voice, writing, or observation, ensuring every learner finds their pathway into the learning experience.



## Every Voice Matters

There is no single correct answer in drama education. Multiple interpretations are celebrated, creating space where every perspective is valued. This approach builds confidence and encourages authentic expression from all participants.



## Language Inclusion

Drama provides leadership opportunities for vulnerable pupils who may struggle in traditional academic settings. Non-verbal communication, visual storytelling, and collaborative creation transcend language barriers and empower diverse learners.



# Engagement and Challenge

## Engagement Strategies

Making drama accessible and inviting for all learners:

- Interactive games that build trust and creative confidence
- Familiar stories as safe entry points to complex themes
- Real-world climate cases connecting learning to lived experience
  - Pupil choice in roles, scenarios, and creative direction

## Challenge Elements

Stretching learners through meaningful complexity:

- Ethical dilemmas requiring moral reasoning and debate
  - Conflicting viewpoints exploring multiple perspectives
- Original creation developing student voice and agency
- Critical analysis of climate narratives and solutions

# Drama Education, the Brain and Essential Life Skills

## Cognitive Skills

Drama develops logical thinking and pattern recognition. Students analyse cause-effect relationships in climate scenarios, strengthening reasoning abilities. Role-play exercises build sequential thinking and help learners connect complex environmental systems.

## Creative & Emotional

Imagination flourishes through drama exploration. Students develop emotional intelligence and moral reasoning as they inhabit different perspectives. Creative expression allows safe processing of climate anxiety while building empathy and ethical decision-making skills.

## Life Skills

Collaboration and teamwork are central to drama practice. Students develop adaptability, problem-solving, and leadership through group work. Communication skills strengthen across diverse cultures, preparing learners for real-world challenges and future careers.

# Project Trajectory and Themes by Country

## Turkey & France

Turkey explores Water & Migration, examining how climate change affects water resources and drives human displacement. France focuses on Waste & Displacement, investigating consumption patterns and their environmental consequences through dramatic storytelling.

## Greece & Poland

Greece investigates Food systems, exploring sustainable agriculture and food security challenges. Poland examines Energy themes, looking at renewable transitions and energy justice through embodied drama techniques and collaborative exploration.

## Wales: Synthesis

Wales serves as the synthesis hub, bringing together all partner themes into cohesive dramatic narratives. Ysgol Bryn Alyn connects water, waste, food, and energy stories, creating unified performances that celebrate international collaboration.

# Key Principles for Teaching Staff

## Trust the Process

Prioritise participation over perfection. Drama learning unfolds through doing, not just discussing. Allow students time to explore, make mistakes, and discover meaning through embodied experience. The journey matters as much as the outcome.

## Drama as Language

Use drama as your teaching language and share control with pupils. Let students co-create scenarios, make choices, and shape narratives. This builds ownership, agency, and deeper engagement with climate themes through collaborative storytelling.

## Embrace Uncertainty

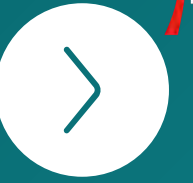
Accept uncertainty and model openness to multiple perspectives. Climate issues rarely have simple answers. Show students that questioning, exploring different viewpoints, and sitting with complexity are valuable skills for navigating our changing world.



# Practical Drama Strategy 1: Image Theatre

## The Technique

Image Theatre uses bodies to create frozen tableaux representing climate ideas and concepts. Students work collaboratively to sculpt physical images that capture emotions, relationships, and systems. Start simple with basic poses, then layer complexity by adding multiple figures and refining group compositions.



## Building Understanding

This technique develops deeper understanding of climate systems through embodied experience. Students negotiate meaning together, building collaborative interpretation skills. The process encourages reflection on cause and effect, helping learners visualise abstract environmental concepts in tangible, memorable ways.







# Practical Drama

## Strategy 3: Story as Parable

### The Approach

Use well-known fairy tales and fables as accessible entry points for exploring climate themes. Stories like "The Three Little Pigs" can examine sustainable building, while "The Lorax" explores environmental stewardship. Familiar narratives provide emotional safety while introducing complex concepts.



### Key Benefits

Parables provide frameworks for moral reasoning about climate change without overwhelming learners. Students develop critical thinking skills by analysing character choices and consequences. The story structure maintains emotional safety while building deeper understanding of environmental ethics.





# Theatre in Education (T.I.E)

## Active Participation

Theatre in Education transforms students from passive observers into active participants. Learners make meaningful choices within structured dramatic scenarios, exploring the real consequences of climate-related decisions. This direct involvement creates powerful, embodied understanding of complex environmental issues.



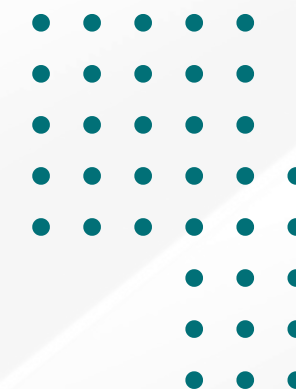
## Guided Reflection

Structured participation ensures every student engages safely while guided reflection deepens learning. Through meaningful dialogue and collaborative exploration, students develop critical thinking about climate challenges. T.I.E builds lasting understanding through experience rather than instruction alone.





# Supporting Curriculum Priorities



## Curriculum Alignment

Drama-based pedagogy aligns seamlessly with Welsh curriculum goals, inclusion frameworks, and student wellbeing initiatives. It supports the Four Purposes by developing ethical, informed citizens who are ready to contribute to Wales and the world. The approach naturally integrates with Areas of Learning and Experience.

## Evidence & Impact

Drama education provides clear evidence for Estyn inspections through measurable wellbeing outcomes and engagement metrics. Cross-curricular connections strengthen literacy, numeracy, and digital competence. Community partnerships with Climate Tales partners demonstrate global citizenship and collaborative learning excellence.





# Final Reflections

## Education for an Unknowable Future

Climate Tales prepares young people with the essential qualities needed for an uncertain future: curiosity to explore, empathy to connect, courage to act, and collaboration to achieve together what none can accomplish alone.

Our guiding principle: "Earth: not ours, but ours to look after." Through drama education, we equip learners to ask better questions, work together across boundaries, and imagine new possibilities for a sustainable world.





# Further Resources and Contact

## Available Materials

A range of Climate Tales resources is available to support your teaching including:

- Staff training materials and workshop guides through the project Toolkit
- Video documentation of techniques in action.
- Contextual frameworks for learning through drama.

## Get in Touch

For support, resources, or collaboration inquiries:

- Access the shared TAI TH resource hub online
- Connect with partner schools across Wales, Turkey, France, Greece, and Poland
- Contact YBA at the address shown for further information.

# THANK YOU

for Your Attention!



Climate Tales

Drama Education for Climate  
Change

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<https://sites.google.com/view/climate-tales/home>

