

IBSC 2024 Conference – Harrow School

Independents by Sodexo

Workshop – Discussion Topics & Potential Outcomes

TITLE: THE ENVIRONMENT: ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION?

“Explore our environmental responsibility in preparing the next generation for the world we will leave them. Are we demonstrating to our students and wider school communities and contributing through our actions to tackling a global challenge—beyond just teaching a concept?”

5 things schools could do to address climate change:

1. Integrate Sustainability Education into the Curriculum:

- Make environmental science, climate change, and sustainability core components of the curriculum across various disciplines.
- Encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills to develop solutions for environmental challenges.
- Integrate real-world case studies and projects that allow students to apply their knowledge and make a difference in their local communities.

2. Promote Environmental Stewardship on Campus:

- Implement sustainable practices in school operations, such as reducing energy and water consumption, minimizing waste generation, and reviewing aspects of operational management.
- Encourage sustainable food choices in the provision of food & beverage services, supporting local farmers, producers and manufacturers and reducing food waste.
- Review renewable energy sources like solar panels or wind turbines to generate power sources reducing the reliance on fossil fuels.
- Organize campus clean-up days, tree planting initiatives, and eco-friendly activities to foster a culture of environmental responsibility among students.

3. Empower Student Leadership in Sustainability:

- Promote & establish student-led environmental clubs or committees to spearhead initiatives within the school and the wider community.
- Encourage students to organise, participate and contribute to campus conferences, and competitions, providing them with leadership opportunities.
- Support student-led research projects focused on environmental issues, fostering a spirit of innovation and problem-solving.

4. Engage with the Community and Partner with Local Organisations:

- Organise educational workshops and events for parents, teachers, and the wider community on climate change and sustainable practices.
- Partner with local environmental organisations to participate in restoration projects, conservation efforts, or educational programs.
- Work with local businesses to explore sustainable procurement practices and promote eco-friendly solutions within the community.

5. Advocate for Climate Action and Policy Change:

- Encourage students to engage in local civic activities whilst understanding & advocating climate-friendly policies.
- Organise school-wide events or activities to raise awareness about climate change solutions and policy changes needed to address the current challenge.
- Use the school's resources, influences and platforms to communicate with policymakers and advocate for a more sustainable future.

By implementing these steps, schools can empower their students to become environmentally conscious leaders, equip them with the knowledge and skills to address climate change, and leave a positive impact on the planet.

Here's how the IBSC (International Boys' Schools Coalition) could support the 5 initiatives for schools to address climate change:

1. Integrate Sustainability Education into the Curriculum:

- **IBSC Resources:** The IBSC can develop and share curriculum resources on climate change and sustainability, catering to different age groups and academic disciplines.
- **Teacher & Campus Team Training Workshops:** Organise workshops to equip teachers and campus teams with the knowledge and tools to effectively integrate sustainability education into their lessons and in the day to day operating of the campus.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Foster collaboration between member schools on developing innovative and engaging sustainability curriculum projects.

2. Promote Environmental Stewardship on Campus:

- **Sharing Best Practices:** Create a platform for member schools to share best practices and success stories in implementing sustainable initiatives & practices.
- **Benchmarking and Competitions:** Introduce benchmarking programs to encourage friendly competition among member schools in areas like energy efficiency or waste reduction.
- **Resource Sharing:** Develop a system for pooling resources and providing shared support to member schools for implementing eco-friendly initiatives.

3. Empower Student Leadership in Sustainability:

- **Student Leadership Conferences:** Organise annual conferences where student leaders from member schools can share ideas, network, and develop collaborative projects.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Establish a mentorship program connecting student leaders from experienced schools with those starting their environmental initiatives.
- **Recognition and Awards:** Recognise outstanding student leadership and initiatives in sustainability through awards and media coverage.

4. Engage with the Community and Partner with Local Organisations:

- **Community Outreach Toolkit:** Create a toolkit to guide member schools in partnering with local environmental organisations and engaging with their communities.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Facilitate regional collaboration between member schools to tackle environmental challenges with a larger impact.
- **Advocacy Platforms:** Provide platforms for member schools to share their sustainability initiatives and best practices with the wider local community.

5. Advocate for Climate Action and Policy Change:

- **Policy Briefs and Advocacy Support:** Develop policy briefs and resources to empower IBSC member schools and students to advocate for climate-friendly policies at local and national levels.
- **Guest Speakers and Events:** Organise events featuring experts on climate change and environmental advocacy to inform and inspire students, teachers, campus teams and local communities
- **Collective Voice:** Provide a unified voice for the IBSC on climate issues, leveraging the collective influence of member schools for advocacy efforts.

By recommending these actions, the IBSC can empower its member schools and the next generation of young men to become a powerful force for a more sustainable future.