



## **Tessa Kingsley**

Teacher. Parish Councillor. Project Manager  
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My name is Tessa Kingsley. I am a teacher, parish councillor and Project Manager at Climate Change Risk Management Ltd, a consultancy offering climate change advice to organisations around the world.

Twenty-five years ago, I organised a climate change conference for schools in Warwickshire when I was Chair of the local Agenda 21 group. I had been writing letters to businesses about single-use plastic for several years, encouraged by my mum who was an eco-warrior before her time, but like many people I felt quite despondent about many people's attitude to the environment. It was seen as worthy, but no one really took us seriously.

Fast forward to 2020 and climate change has finally become mainstream. I take my hat off to XR, to Greta Thunberg and to all the climate scientists and activists who have made this happen.

Last year I met Steve Mulcahy, Headteacher at Richard Lander School and we realised that we had the same idea for a similar conference in Cornwall.

We suggested this to Exeter University who immediately ran with the idea and 25 schools from across Cornwall came to the Penryn Campus to listen to talks from experts and take part in workshops. We've had fantastic support from Janine Bisson at Cornwall Council and from the Eden Project and there is now a strong group of teachers, parents and education professionals keen to move this forward and to follow up on the work which we started.

I am passionate about equipping every single teacher with the tools they need to talk to pupils about climate change and to include up-to-date information about climate science and climate impacts across the curriculum.

Cornish schools have been fantastic in responding to this and signing up to a Green Charter for schools, but we can still go further to make it part of our everyday dialogue. That doesn't just mean eliminating single use plastic from our school canteens, but taking far more radical measures to put climate change and sustainability at the heart of school life. This may include difficult questions about school transport, about how far some of our pupils live from their school and about the food which is on the menu in the school canteen.

I believe that every pupil should know how to grow their own fruit and veg and that they should understand exactly where their food comes from so that they can make informed decisions about what they eat. They should have the opportunity to walk and cycle to school safely if they are not using public transport, and they should understand the impacts of the decisions which they make when they go shopping. I look forward to children returning to school next week (September 2020) and to picking up this work where we left off earlier this year.



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