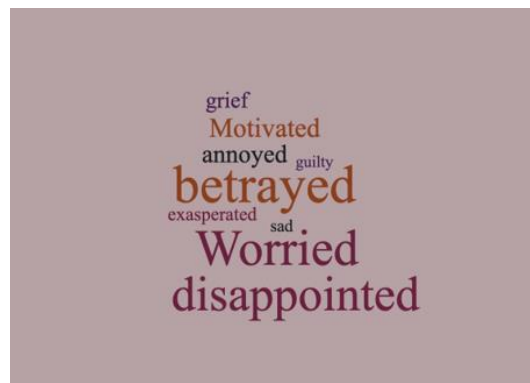




# *It's their future!*

## **CLIMATE ANXIETY IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALTON (HAMPSHIRE) AND THEIR VIEWS ON CLIMATE ACTION** Report of a survey



Word cloud from the survey (335 responses)

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**Survey commissioned by Alton Climate Action Network**  
**Registered Charity No 1189431**

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September 2022

## 1. Introduction

This is the report of a survey undertaken in the summer of 2022 to help Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN), decision-makers including local government, and the wider public, understand more fully children's and young people's concerns about the climate crisis.<sup>1</sup> The survey was commissioned by Young Alton Climate Action Network (Young ACAN) which was set up in October 2021. Young ACAN is a youth movement based in the market town of Alton, Hampshire aiming to empower young people to reclaim their future through local climate activism.

The survey was funded from a grant from the Community Lottery "Together for our Planet" fund. The aim was to obtain 250 responses to an online survey aimed at those aged 10 - 19+ years; 335 responses were received. The researcher also held qualitative group discussion sessions in five schools.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About half of respondents reported negative emotions towards their future because of the climate crisis, reporting feelings of sadness, fear, and powerlessness, all of which are linked to climate anxiety. One participant said, "You can easily fall into a dark hole in which you feel there's nothing you can do." Over 80% of respondents felt that they 'were being failed as young people' by the Government in the fight against climate change. 67% of participants disagreed that the Government could be 'trusted on the fight against climate change'. One participant suggested the government should, "Put more pressure on mass corporations to limit their impact on the environment and stop blaming the public."

However, 69% said that they felt the local community and council of Alton and surrounding areas, 'Cared about climate change in the same way I do.'

Respondents' focus was on action with 91% saying that they would like to see more action on climate change locally. 86% had not previously heard of ACAN and 81% were not involved in any climate-related initiatives, offering a massive opportunity for the growth and development of ACAN and Young ACAN. Of those that were involved in local initiatives, a majority took part in litter picks and recycling or were involved in school eco-groups. Of those that were not currently involved in any initiatives, 67% were keen to get involved in the future.

The top three areas of action that respondents wanted to see were: protecting biodiversity (76%); reducing waste and litter and increasing recycling (67%); followed by food and agriculture: growing more food locally, eating less meat and reducing food waste.

The survey suggests that climate anxiety is widespread among children and young people living in and around Alton. They feel they are being failed by adults at all levels of authority, who are simply not doing enough to address their concerns. Further support should be put in place to give children and young people a platform to talk about their concerns, and to manage their climate anxiety.

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<sup>1</sup> ACAN was established in 2019 and brings people together to tackle the climate crisis in Alton and the surrounding villages, mainly through 12 different groups and projects, including Young ACAN. See [www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk](http://www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk)

The children and young people of Alton need more opportunities to be involved in practical initiatives, including lobbying government who are perceived as not taking sufficient action. Taking action will help to mitigate their distress and sense of powerlessness over their future. We need always to remember that it is *their* future.

As a new group, Young ACAN needs to continue to raise its profile, as far as is possible given the limited resources of a voluntary community group. ACAN are very grateful for the co-operation of schools – this partnership is a vitally important way of engaging with young people.

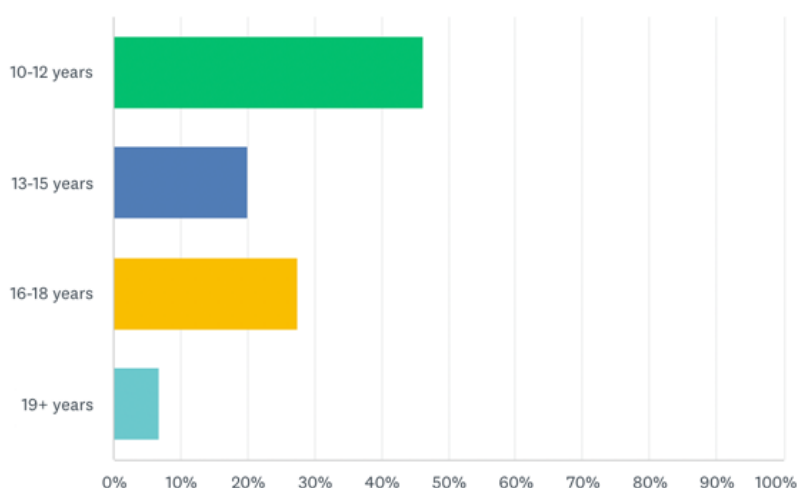
A separate ACAN survey in June 2022 in one primary school of 115 children aged mainly 8 – 11 years, found that climate change was very or quite important to 94% of respondents. Most of the children were fairly worried or worried and 26% were very worried. About half said they were frightened.

The findings of ACAN’s surveys are similar to those from other UK and international surveys.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

An online survey comprising 11 questions (reproduced in the Annex) was made available to children and young people aged 10-19+ years, mainly through schools in Alton. The survey questions were developed with considerable input from young people.

The survey was given to two state secondary schools (academies), one private school and one state primary school, and Treloar College (a college for young people with disabilities). Young people were also invited to complete the survey via social media. The aim was to achieve as balanced a sample regarding age and background as possible.



**Figure 1: age of participants**

335 responses were received, exceeding the target of 250.

We received a cross section of responses from those aged 10 -19 +, with those aged 10-12 years being 46% of the total (Figure 1).

The researcher also conducted focus groups across five schools in Alton, during which five question areas were discussed in person with young people. (The questions can be found in the Annex).

ACAN would like to thank local schools for their active co-operation in the administration of the survey – this research would not have been possible without their support.

## 4. FINDINGS

### 4.1 Feelings about the climate crisis

About half of the young people surveyed expressed feelings associated with climate anxiety: sadness, fear and powerlessness (Figure 2 below).

One focus group member said, *“We can see the differences in the climate and environment locally, It’s no longer just elsewhere in the world. There are overwhelming climate-related posts on Instagram, e.g. pics of the planet burning.”*

Another said *“You can easily fall into a dark hole in which you feel there’s nothing you can do.”*

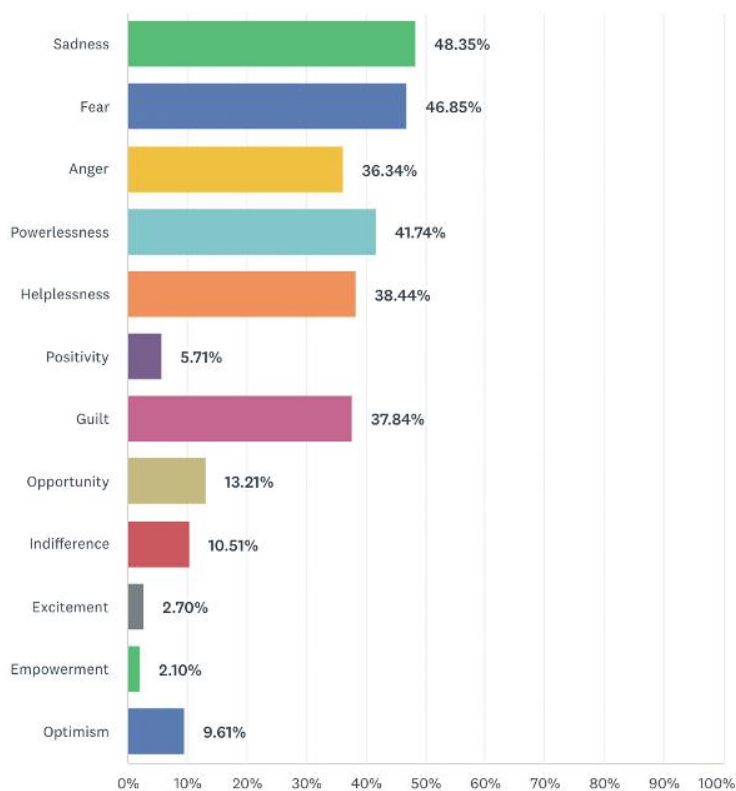


Figure 2: Emotions felt when thinking about the climate crisis and the future

Because of small sample sizes, the findings are presented in this report for all respondents, and not by age group. However, the data may suggest that more 13-18-year-olds (up to 60%) compared with 10-12-year-olds are scared for their future, and experience feelings of sadness, fear, powerlessness, and helplessness.

|                   | SADNESS      | FEAR         | ANGER        | POWERLESSNESS | HELPLESSNESS |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Q1: 10-12 years   | 41.94%<br>65 | 40.00%<br>62 | 27.74%<br>43 | 30.97%<br>48  | 27.10%<br>42 |
| Q1: 13-15 years   | 53.73%<br>36 | 58.21%<br>39 | 40.30%<br>27 | 47.76%<br>32  | 56.72%<br>38 |
| Q1: 16-18 years   | 63.33%<br>57 | 52.22%<br>47 | 47.78%<br>43 | 60.00%<br>54  | 47.78%<br>43 |
| Q1: 19+ years     | 20.00%<br>5  | 40.00%<br>10 | 36.00%<br>9  | 32.00%<br>8   | 28.00%<br>7  |
| Total Respondents | 162          | 157          | 122          | 141           | 130          |

**Table 1: Emotions felt when thinking about the climate crisis – by age group of respondents**

## 4.2 Views on action by others on climate change

60% of participants wanted ‘to see action in light of the climate crisis.’ Over half (51%) felt the planet was being neglected and 39% were ‘scared for their future.’ Responses were mainly negative in regard to feelings about the future generally (Table 2).

| ANSWER CHOICES                                      | RESPONSES  |
|---|------------|
| ▼ I don’t feel like enough is being done            | 60.60% 203 |
| ▼ Our planet has been neglected                     | 51.64% 173 |
| ▼ I am scared for my future                         | 39.40% 132 |
| ▼ I won’t have the same opportunities as my parents | 28.36% 95  |
| ▼ I am not worried about my future                  | 17.61% 59  |
| ▼ Humanity is doomed                                | 14.93% 50  |
| ▼ We will adapt to the changing weather             | 12.24% 41  |
| ▼ Technology will solve the climate crisis          | 11.64% 39  |
| ▼ I think the Climate Crisis is exaggerated         | 4.78% 16   |
| Total Respondents: 335                              |            |

**Table 2: Feelings about participants’ future, in light of the climate crisis**

### 4.2.1 Views on action by government

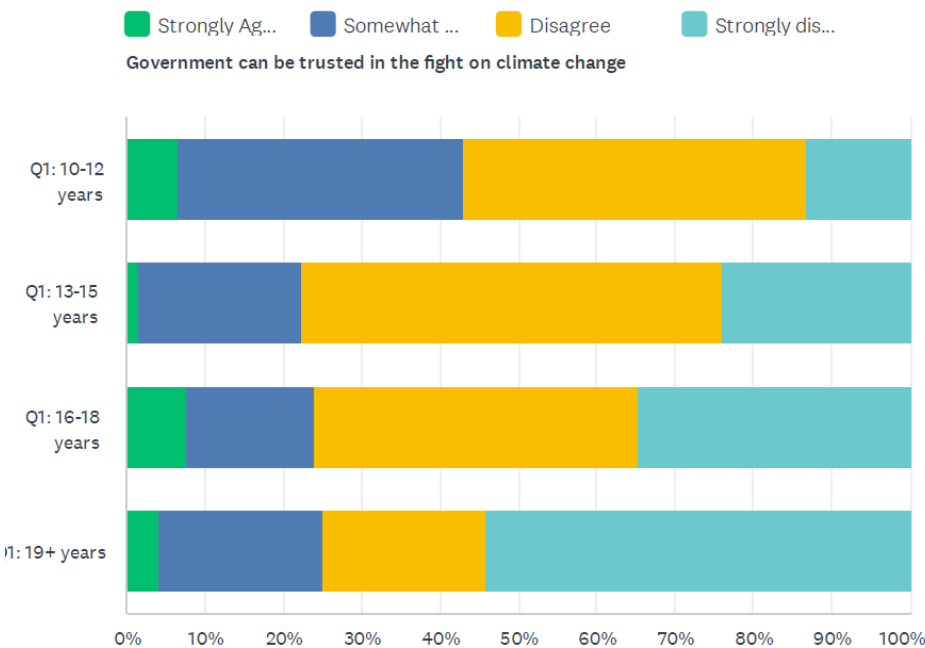
When asked about the Government’s action on climate change, 67% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Government could be trusted in the fight on climate change. Over 80% somewhat or strongly agreed that ‘young people have been failed’ by the government’s response to climate change (Table 3).

One focus group respondent said, “*They just need to seem more urgent, they’re saying they’ll do something but it always gets delayed.*”

|   | STRONGLY AGREE | SOMEWHAT AGREE | DISAGREE      | STRONGLY DISAGREE | TOTAL |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| Government can be trusted in the fight on climate change              | 5.45%<br>18    | 26.67%<br>88   | 43.94%<br>145 | 23.94%<br>79      | 330   |
| The Government are doing what they can to tackle the crisis           | 7.51%<br>25    | 26.73%<br>89   | 39.94%<br>133 | 25.83%<br>86      | 333   |
| I am reassured that the Government is taking action                   | 7.21%<br>24    | 27.33%<br>91   | 39.34%<br>131 | 26.13%<br>87      | 333   |
| Feel I am being lied to   | 19.34%<br>64   | 46.83%<br>155  | 29.91%<br>99  | 3.93%<br>13       | 331   |
| I feel I am ignored   | 22.49%<br>74   | 46.81%<br>154  | 26.44%<br>87  | 4.26%<br>14       | 329   |
| I am unaware of what the Government is doing to tackle climate change | 21.69%<br>72   | 48.49%<br>161  | 21.99%<br>73  | 7.83%<br>26       | 332   |
| Young people have been failed   | 30.21%<br>100  | 50.76%<br>168  | 15.41%<br>51  | 3.63%<br>12       | 331   |

**Table 3: Views on the national government’s action on climate change**

The data suggests (Figure 3) that more 13-18-year-olds compared with 10-12-year-olds may feel that the government cannot be trusted in the fight on climate change. (The sample for 19+ years is very small.)



**Figure 3: Response to question whether the government can be trusted in the fight on climate change, by age group**

#### 4.2.2 Views on action by the local community and being able to talk about their worries

When asked about the local community's response to the climate crisis, 69% somewhat agreed or strongly agreed that the community and council of Alton cared about the climate crisis in the same way that they did. However, 91% agreed that more action needed to be seen in the local community (Table 4).

A focus group respondent said, *“People are reluctant to accept that they’ll need to change their behaviour.”* Another said, *“The problem is that it’s a lot easier not to do anything than to change.”*

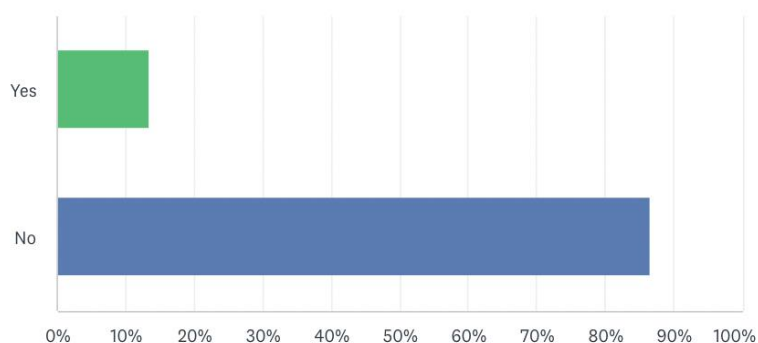
|  | STRONGLY AGREE | SOMEWHAT AGREE | DISAGREE     | STRONGLY DISAGREE | TOTAL |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| I can see the local community and council is taking action on Climate Change               | 10.27%<br>34   | 52.57%<br>174  | 28.40%<br>94 | 8.76%<br>29       | 331   |
| I feel like my local community and council cares about Climate change in the same way I do | 11.48%<br>38   | 57.40%<br>190  | 23.56%<br>78 | 7.55%<br>25       | 331   |
| I would like to see more action on the climate crisis in my local community                | 54.52%<br>181  | 36.75%<br>122  | 5.72%<br>19  | 3.01%<br>10       | 332   |
| I would like to talk more about my worries and future concerns surrounding Climate change  | 18.18%<br>60   | 40.91%<br>135  | 28.18%<br>93 | 12.73%<br>42      | 330   |

**Table 4: Views on action being taken in the local community of Alton and surrounding areas**

59% wanted to be able to talk more about their worries and concerns (Table 4). *“I am concerned that people don’t want to talk about it”*, said one focus group respondent.

#### 4.2.3 Views on action by young people themselves

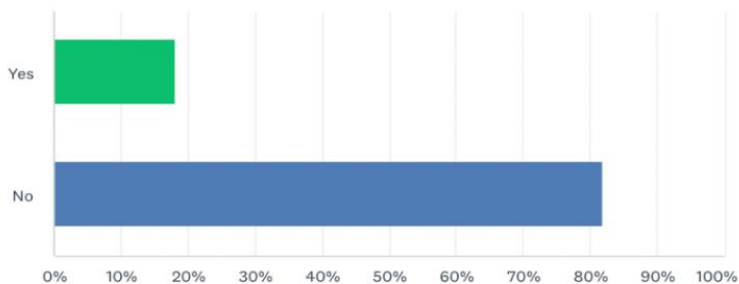
87% of participants had not yet heard of ACAN or Young ACAN (Figure 4). (Eggars and Alton Schools and Treloar College do have catchment areas extending well beyond Alton).



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 13.43% 45  |
| No             | 86.57% 290 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>335</b> |

**Figure 4: Response to question on whether participants had previously heard of ACAN or Young ACAN**

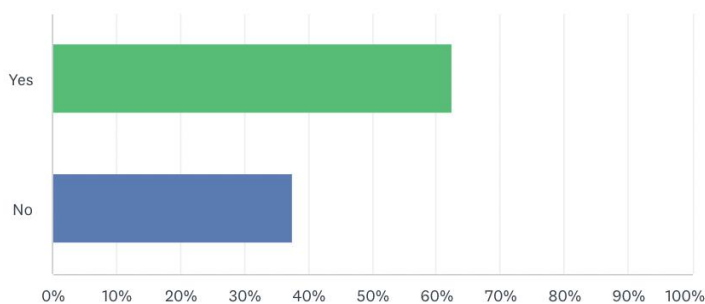
82% of participants said they were not currently involved in any activities around climate change (Figure 5). Of the 18% that were active, their involvement was mainly in litter picking, recycling, and with eco-groups in their schools.



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 18.21%    | 61         |
| No             | 81.79%    | 274        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>335</b> |

**Figure 5: Response to question about involvement in any activities around climate change**

Of the 274 participants who said they were not involved in any activities around climate change 63% were keen to be involved in local initiatives (Figure 6).



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 62.58%    | 199        |
| No             | 37.42%    | 119        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>318</b> |

**Figure 6: Desire of those not already involved in any initiatives to get involved**

The top four topics of interest were: Biodiversity: nature, woodland and protecting biodiversity; Reducing Waste: plastics, recycling; Food and Agriculture: growing more food locally, reducing food waste, eating less meat; and Greener Transport: public transport, cycling (Table 5).



|   | VERY PASSIONATE | PASSIONATE    | SOME INTEREST | NOT INTERESTED | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| ▼ Sustainable fashion: Fast Fashion and up-cycling  | 21.91%<br>71    | 24.07%<br>78  | 32.10%<br>104 | 21.91%<br>71   | 324   | 2.54             |
| ▼ Reducing waste: Plastics, recycling   | 32.52%<br>106   | 35.58%<br>116 | 21.78%<br>71  | 10.12%<br>33   | 326   | 2.10             |
| ▼ Food and agriculture: Growing more food locally, reducing food waste, eating less meat etc                  | 31.19%<br>102   | 34.25%<br>112 | 20.18%<br>66  | 14.37%<br>47   | 327   | 2.18             |
| ▼ Energy use: raising awareness   | 24.77%<br>80    | 32.82%<br>106 | 27.24%<br>88  | 15.17%<br>49   | 323   | 2.33             |
| ▼ Greenhouse gas emissions from large companies: Factories, industry (and the impacts of pollution on health) | 26.07%<br>85    | 32.52%<br>106 | 23.31%<br>76  | 18.10%<br>59   | 326   | 2.33             |
| ▼ Sustainable and ethical consumption: E.g fair trade,  | 28.66%<br>92    | 31.78%<br>102 | 26.79%<br>86  | 12.77%<br>41   | 321   | 2.24             |
| ▼ Greener Transport: Public transport, cycling  | 30.56%<br>99    | 35.19%<br>114 | 21.91%<br>71  | 12.35%<br>40   | 324   | 2.16             |
| ▼ Biodiversity: Nature, woodland and protecting biodiversity  | 46.01%<br>150   | 30.06%<br>98  | 15.03%<br>49  | 8.90%<br>29    | 326   | 1.87             |
| ▼ Understanding of government policies and political activism   | 18.63%<br>60    | 29.81%<br>96  | 31.37%<br>101 | 20.19%<br>65   | 322   | 2.53             |

**Table 5: Top topics of interest to young people in tackling climate change**

When asked what ‘experiences and activities make you feel worse about climate change’ the following were most frequently mentioned:

- Reading the news
- Social media
- That people don’t want to talk about it
- Documentaries e.g. David Attenborough
- Seeing animal suffering e.g. polar bears and turtles

When asked about activities that could ‘make you feel better in the fight on climate change’ the most popular responses were:

- Litter picking.
- Being in nature.
- Talking to people about climate change.
- Seeking positive posts on social media about what people are doing to tackle climate change.
- Spreading the word.

### 4.3 Findings from a separate Alton primary school ACAN survey

A survey undertaken by ACAN in June 2022 in one primary school in Alton, of 115 children aged mainly 8 – 11 years, as part of a different project, found that climate change was very important to 52% of respondents and quite important to 42%. Most of the children were fairly worried or worried and 26% were very worried (Figure 7). About half said they were frightened (Figure 8).

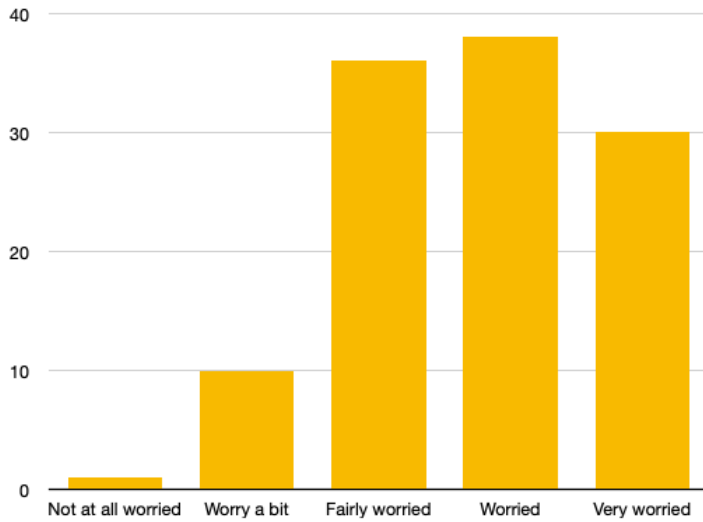


Figure 7 – Level of worry amongst primary school children in one school

Most of the children agreed that “we can all do our bit”, “together we can make a positive impact” and that “radical changes are needed”. A majority said that “grown-ups are not doing enough” (Figure 8).

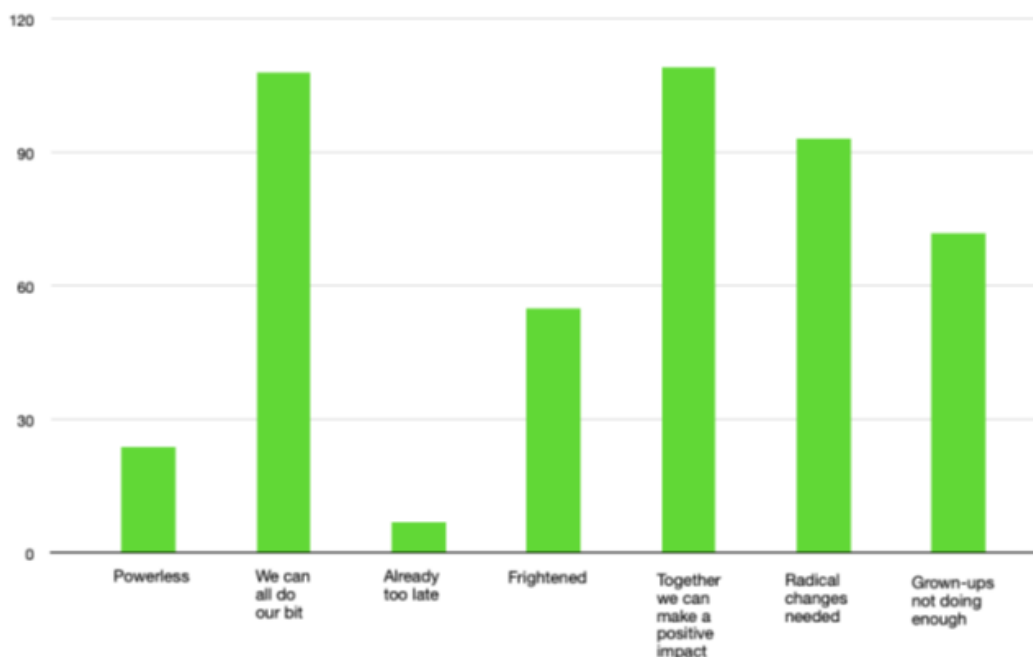


Figure 8 – Opinions of primary school children in one school

37% of these children said they follow a plant-based diet and 20% of them stated that they participate in protests.

A survey of the views of adults has been undertaken within ACAN's Eco-Streets project; the findings will be published in a separate report.

#### 4.4 Relevant findings from other surveys

The findings of this small local survey are similar to the findings of Hickman et al's (2021) international survey of 10,000 children and young people aged 16-25 in 10 countries including 1,000 participants in the UK. Forty-nine percent of UK respondents were extremely or very worried, and 80% were at least moderately worried. Hickman et al. found that 75% of young people said that they think the future is frightening and 83% said that they think people have failed to take care of the planet; they rated governmental responses to climate change negatively; and climate anxiety and distress were correlated with perceived inadequate government response and associated feelings of betrayal.

Lawrence et al. (2022) surveyed a diverse sample of 518 UK 16-24-year-olds between August and October 2020, and found that "Although UK youth reported more life disruption and concern for their future due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change was associated with significantly greater distress overall, particularly for individuals with low levels of generalised anxiety ... The greater distress attributed to climate change overall was due, in particular, to higher levels of guilt, sense of personal responsibility, and greater distress triggered by upsetting media coverage."

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

The results from this survey suggest that climate anxiety and dissatisfaction with the government's action on climate change are widespread amongst children and young people in and around Alton, with a perceived failure and major distrust of the Government on tackling the challenges. Children and young people want to see tangible action.

Though it was felt that the local community in and around Alton were aligned with their concerns and 'care' for the planet, there was still a strong view that more needs to be done.

The survey results strongly suggest that to address children's and young people's anxiety about their future, ACAN and other local stakeholders, including all three levels of local government (Alton Town Council, East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council), need to involve young people further in their action plans. Other research shows that even those who perceive the threat from climate change as severe show reduced distress and depressive symptoms when they are involved in behaviour to mitigate the problem (Bradley et al, 2014).

To address their climate anxiety, children and young people need support to talk about climate change and their worries; a sounding board, a way of addressing the issues of climate anxiety head on, including information and discussion about what can trigger it and how to manage it.

Alongside this, it is vital to foster optimism and hope. A wide range of research suggests that people who are able to reframe the issue and find something positive in their circumstances, tend to do better than people

who are less able to regulate their thinking, emotions, and actions (Iacoviello & Charney, 2014; Prince-Embury, 2013; Bonanno & Diminich, 2013; Hanbury & Indart, 2013; Petrusek Macdonald et al., 2013; Harper & Pergament, 2015).

Action can be seen as the antidote to both climate anxiety and the climate crisis itself, through being involved and being part of the solution.

82% of respondents were not involved in any action on climate in the local area. Of those participants that were not already involved, 67% were keen to get involved, showing an appetite to be part of the action and offering Young ACAN scope for considerable development. As Young ACAN is a youth eco-group launched only a few months before the survey was carried out, it is unsurprising that 86% had not yet heard of it.

Our relationship with nature – how much we notice, think about, and appreciate our natural surroundings – is also a critical factor in supporting good mental health and preventing distress. (Mental Health Foundation, 2021.) The survey finding that children’s and young people’s first preference as an area for action is biodiversity (protecting nature and woodland) is an important priority for Young ACAN, schools and other stakeholders. Young people’s engagement with biodiversity will improve both their mental health and nature itself.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The impact of climate change is clearly being felt most profoundly by our younger population, many of whom are experiencing emotional distress. Young ACAN, schools and the local community need to develop a programme of **support for children and young people to talk about climate change** and how to manage their anxiety

2. **Involvement in action** will mitigate children’s and young people’s feelings of sadness and powerlessness and foster optimism and hope. The survey shows that the majority are keen to take action. The following topics emerge from the survey as priorities for maximum engagement and take-up by young people:

- **Biodiversity:** Nature, woodland and protecting biodiversity.
- **Reducing Waste:** Plastics, recycling, litter picking.
- **Food and Agriculture:** Growing more food locally, reducing food waste, eating less meat.
- **Greener Transport:** Public transport, cycling.

3. **Local decision makers** (including the Town Council, District Council and County Council) and other stakeholders need to gain and **protect the trust of children and young people by involving them in climate action planning and delivery.** and be seen to be taking ‘meaningful’ action whilst moving swiftly. This includes making a visible commitment, with **tangible measures** for progress, for example for each initiative to consider how it can be more concrete in its contribution. i.e., improved butterfly population by x, saved x carbon by reusing clothes, planted x trees with an aim to save x carbon.

3. It is essential for any activity that there is a **strong communications plan** to clarify what is being done and focus on measurable action along with follow up on how well each initiative is communicated across

social media, in schools and the wider community using posters etc. This will in turn improve awareness and trust.

This research is a snapshot of an ever-growing challenge. It provides a warning and wake-up call to adults, especially those in government and other leadership roles, of the need for urgent action on the climate crisis which strongly engages and involves children and young people, and offers a robust framework to tackle their climate anxiety. It is *their* future. We need to work together to ensure it is a future in which children and young people can thrive.

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## The Young ACAN Online Questionnaire



### Young ACAN Survey

#### Impact of the climate crisis and young people

**Young ACAN is a youth movement which is a branch of Alton Climate Action Network, an environmental action charity. We are interested in the thoughts and ideas of young people locally to help shape our next steps.**

1. Which age bracket do you fall into

- 10-12 years
- 13-15 years
- 16-18 years
- 19+ years

2. How do you feel about your future, in light of the climate crisis?

*(Tick the statements that are relevant to you)*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am scared for my future                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology will solve the climate crisis          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I think the Climate Crisis is exaggerated | <input type="checkbox"/> I won't have the same opportunities as my parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our planet has been neglected             | <input type="checkbox"/> We will adapt to the changing weather             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not worried about my future          | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't feel like enough is being done            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humanity is doomed                        |  |

3. When you think about the climate crisis and your future what sort of emotions does it conjure up?

*(Tick the boxes of the ones that are relevant to you)*

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sadness       | <input type="checkbox"/> Guilt        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear          | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger         | <input type="checkbox"/> Indifference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerlessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Excitement   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helplessness  | <input type="checkbox"/> Empowerment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positivity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimism     |

4. In regards to the national Government's action on climate change how do you feel about the following statements

|   | Strongly Agree        | Somewhat agree        | Disagree              | Strongly disagree     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Young people have been failed   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Feel I am being lied to   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel I am ignored   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Government are doing what they can to tackle the crisis           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am reassured that the Government is taking action                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Government can be trusted in the fight on climate change              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am unaware of what the Government is doing to tackle climate change | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

What action do you think the Government should be taking or be doing more of?

5. In terms of your local community of Alton and the surrounding areas, how do you feel about the following statements

|  | Strongly Agree        | Somewhat Agree        | Disagree              | Strongly disagree     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I can see the local community and council is taking action on Climate Change               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel like my local community and council cares about Climate change in the same way I do | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would like to see more action on the climate crisis in my local community                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would like to talk more about my worries and future concerns surrounding Climate change  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

6. Before this survey, had you heard of ACAN or Young ACAN?

Yes

No

7. Are you currently involved in any activities around Climate change?

Yes

No

8. If answer to question 6 is Yes. Which activities do you partake in?

9. If answer to question 7 is 'No' would you be interested in being involved in local initiatives to help with the Climate Crisis?

Yes

No



10. Out of this list of topics which ones might you be interested in?

|   | Very Passionate       | Passionate            | Some interest         | Not interested        |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sustainable fashion:</b> <i>Fast Fashion and up-cycling</i>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Reducing waste:</b> <i>Plastics, recycling</i>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Food and agriculture:</b> <i>Growing more food locally, reducing food waste, eating less meat etc.</i>                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Energy use:</b> <i>raising awareness</i>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Greenhouse gas emissions from large companies:</b> <i>Factories, industry (and the impacts of pollution on health)</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Sustainable and ethical consumption:</b> <i>E.g. fair trade,</i>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Greener Transport:</b> <i>Public transport, cycling</i>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Biodiversity:</b> <i>Nature, woodland and protecting biodiversity</i>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Understanding of government policies and political activism</b>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

11. In addition, are there any specific initiatives or ideas you have to tackle the climate crisis locally?

We understand that matters around the climate crisis can be challenging for you in lots of ways. If you would like to talk about the issues that are covered in the survey or just find out how to get involved please email us:

[young.altoncan@gmail.com](mailto:young.altoncan@gmail.com)

Also you can follow us on Instagram @youngacan

In addition to this survey we will be running some focus groups to understand more about your needs and ideas. Should you want to get involved in these please either ask a teacher or email on the email above.

## **Focus groups – script used**

### **Introduction to the Session**

Thank you for taking the time today to talk to us. Some of you may have already filled out the online survey and may have already heard of Young ACAN.

For those of you that haven't, Young ACAN is a youth movement which is a branch of Alton Climate Action Network, an environmental action charity. We are interested in the thoughts and ideas of young people, like yourselves around how we can do more to support your Climate and environmental concerns.

If you have not had a chance to do the online survey, please do ask your teacher about it as we would love your input.

Today is a discussion group where we have a few questions we would love your help with!

#### **1) When you think about climate change and the environment, what emotions do you feel?**

*Looking for descriptors: Sad, indifferent, concerned.*

#### **2) What experiences or activities can make you feel worse about climate change?**

*Listening to Politicians, social media, the news.*

#### **3) What can you do so that you feel better about climate change?**

*Prompts: Talking about it, finding positive news, Spending time in nature, finding ways to make a difference*

#### **4) In your local community what are the most important actions you want to see, that you think can make a real difference?**

*Prompts/ ideas:*

- *Local politicians making it a priority in their policies and lobbying the government*
- *Support to talk about it*
- *Recycling, reusing etc*

#### **5) In the future what do you hope ACAN can do in the future regarding climate change?**

- *Help me voice my feelings and concerns*
- *Support with lobbying the local council*

### **Wrap up:**

**The session is now finished. Are there any other ideas or thoughts you would like to voice?**

Thank you! All your input will be extremely valuable in shaping local action on Climate Change. We understand this can be a difficult topic for you all, so please do speak to an adult if you want to discuss any aspects further, or contact Young ACAN.

Also be sure to find out more about Young ACAN or get involved by looking us up on IG or emailing us.