Sustainability and climate change

The Cornerstones Curriculum includes substantial coverage of sustainability and climate change, which is engendered in EYFS and developed up to Year 6.

The table below lists the projects where our sustainability and climate change teaching can be found, along with the accompanying core knowledge statements. It is important to note that our teaching of this area does not consist of discrete lessons but offers the children contexts to appreciate the importance of sustainability and climate change issues. For example, they learn about recycling in four subject areas: when studying materials and habitats in science, the environment in geography, environmental art in art and design and the Make Do and Mend campaign in design and technology.

Year Group	Project	Core Knowledge
EYFS	Me and My Community	We should care for the environment. For example, rubbish needs to be put in the bin. Litter has a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.
EYFS	Exploring Autumn	Litter has a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.
EYFS	Animal Safari	Litter can be harmful to plants and animals.
EYFS	Big Wide World	We should care for the environment. For example, rubbish needs to be put in the bin. Litter has a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.
EYFS	On the Beach	Leaving litter on beaches can harm marine life. Leaving litter can harm plants and animals.
EYFS	Sunshine and Sunflowers	Gardeners use compost to help plants grow.
Y1	Our Wonderful World	People can protect the environment by preserving woodlands and hedgerows, recycling and getting rid of waste carefully.
Y1	School Days	Litter and pollution have a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.

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Y2	Uses of Materials	Conservation activities include reducing, reusing and recycling, composting, saving water and saving energy. Conservation activities protect the environment for people in the future.
Y2	Let's Explore the World	Conservation activities include reducing, reusing and recycling, composting, saving water and saving energy. Conservation activities protect the environment for people in the future.
Y2	Animal Survival	Humans can damage or destroy habitats. Their actions can harm and even kill living things. Humans can help habitats. They can create new habitats, make habitats safer or provide food and shelter for living things.
Y3	One Planet, Our World	People can reduce their carbon footprint by driving less, eating less meat, flying less and wasting less food and products.
Y4	Misty Mountain, Winding River	Humans can affect habitats in negative or positive ways.
Y4	Food and the Digestive System	Habitats change over time, either due to natural or human influences. All living things depend on the biotic and abiotic features of their ecosystems to survive; therefore, any change to one part will affect all the other parts.
Y4	Interconnected World	Renewable energy includes solar power, wind power, hydropower, geothermal energy and bioenergy. Humans use natural resources to make energy. Natural resources such as coal and oil cannot be replaced and are non-renewable.

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Y4	Electrical Circuits and Conductors	Renewable energy includes solar power, wind power, hydropower, geothermal energy and bioenergy. Humans use natural resources to make energy. Natural resources such as coal and oil cannot be replaced and are non-renewable.
Y5	Investigating Our World	Sustainable manufacturing processes include reducing carbon footprint, using renewable energy and investigating new technologies.
Y5	Sow, Grow and Farm	Buying seasonal food is beneficial for many reasons. These include the food having higher nutritional value, reducing transportation and supporting local growers. Intensive farming in the past has resulted in the loss of habitats. The journey that food travels from producer to consumer is measured in food miles.
Y5	Eat the Seasons	Seasonality is the time of year when the harvest or flavour of a type of food is at its best.
Y6	Environmental Artists	Environmental artists use recycled materials to create their art. The use of recycled materials can give a message about the importance of recycling but can also portray important messages about damage to the environment or how human behaviour is impacting the world. Recycled materials such as plastic, glass, card, wire and net can be used to create visual effects in new artworks.

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Y6	Make Do and Mend	Make Do and Mend was a campaign run by the Ministry of Information during the Second World War to encourage people to recycle and repurpose their old clothes rather than buy new. Products and inventions can be compared using a range of criteria, such as the impact on society, ease of use, appearance and value for money.
Y6	Our Changing World	Climate change affects the water, temperature, greenhouse gases and weather of a biome. The four main causes of climate change are: burning fossil fuels, deforestation, overpopulation and rearing livestock. Climate change can intensify natural weather events such as storms, heatwaves, floods, sandstorms and droughts to make them more extreme and more destructive. The poorest countries are the most vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather due to little industry, farming and money and are particularly affected by the impact of climate change. Developing countries often have widespread poverty and ineffective governments. They cannot prepare as well for extreme weather events and lack the money to recover quickly afterwards. The Global Climate Risk Index uses data from countries around the world to analyse which countries are most affected by extreme weather events. Natural resource management (NRM) aims to create sustainable ways of using land now and in the future.

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Sustainability issue project in school or community

Year Group	Project	Core Knowledge
Y2	Animal Survival	An animal's habitat must provide water, food, air and shelter for the animal to survive.

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