



Sustainability Progression (Geography)

At Beeston Primary School, sustainability is a shared responsibility and a core part of our whole-school vision. We believe that every child should develop the knowledge, skills and values needed to make informed choices, care for the environment and contribute positively to their local community and the wider world. Sustainability is embedded across our curriculum, enrichment opportunities, school environment and everyday practices, helping pupils to understand both the challenges facing our planet and the actions that can create positive change.

Our sustainability ethos is built around five key strands:

Appreciation of nature - developing curiosity, wonder and respect for the natural world.

Interdependence - understanding how people, animals, plants and environments rely on one another.

Resources and waste - exploring how resources are used and how responsible choices can protect them for future generations.

Climate change - developing an age-appropriate understanding of environmental change, its causes and impacts on our world.

Individual and collective responsibility - empowering pupils to recognise that their actions matter and that positive change happens when people work together.



From the Early Years to Year 6, pupils progressively develop their understanding of sustainability through meaningful learning experiences across the curriculum and beyond. They are encouraged to explore environmental issues, celebrate the diversity and beauty of the natural world, think critically about the impact of human actions and become active participants in creating positive change. Through this whole-school approach, we aim to nurture environmentally aware, responsible and compassionate citizens who are equipped to help build a more sustainable future for all.



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Geography		
Year group	Topic	Sustainability focus
EYFS Key theme: Appreciation and care for nature (linking to Understanding the World)	All About Me / Families / Our Environment	Appreciation of nature through exploring the local environment, recognising plants and animals, understanding that living things need care, and developing curiosity about the natural world.
	Celebrations and Change / Autumn and Seasons	Observing seasonal weather changes and recognising how environments change over time.
	Birthdays and Family Celebrations / Chinese New Year	Understanding that people live differently in different places and cultures.
	Different Occupations	Beginning to understand how people help communities and environments.
	Our Environment and Change / Habitats in our Local Community and Beyond	Recognising local habitats, naming living things, and understanding that plants and animals have needs.
	Holidays / Transitions	Comparing environments and developing a sense of responsibility for caring for places.
Year 1 (David Attenborough) Key theme: Understanding local environments and weather	What is it like here?	Appreciation of Nature: Identify local plants, animals and natural features. Distinguish between natural and human features. Develop curiosity about the local environment. Interdependence: Understand that animals need food and shelter. Recognise how habitats meet living things' needs. Resources and Waste:



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		Identify natural and human-made materials. Begin understanding how resources are used in everyday life. Climate Change: Observe seasonal weather changes. Recognise that weather changes over time. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Participate in simple activities that care for the local environment.
	What is the weather like in the UK?	Climate Change: Observe weather patterns and seasons. Understand changes in day-to-day weather. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Discuss simple actions to help the environment.
	What is it like to live in Shanghai?	Appreciation of Nature: Compare UK and Shanghai environments. Resources and Waste: Explore human-made features and resources used in cities. Interdependence: Recognise how people depend on their environment.
Year 2 (Great Thunberg) Key theme: Global environments and protecting wildlife	Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?	Appreciation of Nature: Compare environments around the world. Understand that plants and animals suit different climates. Interdependence: Understand habitat requirements of living things. Climate Change: Identify weather differences across the world.



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	Why is our world wonderful?	Appreciation of Nature: Explore biodiversity and endangered species. Appreciate significant natural environments. Interdependence: Recognise that living things depend on each other. Climate Change: Understand that humans can take care of plants and animals. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Suggest actions to help protect wildlife.
	What is it like to live by the coast?	Appreciation of Nature: Explore coastal environments and habitats. Climate Change: Understand how weather affects people and environments. Resources and Waste: Consider human impact on coastal environments.
Year 3 (Steve Backshall) Key theme: Natural processes, extreme environments and settlements	Why do people live near volcanoes?	Appreciation of Nature: Explore powerful natural processes that shape landscapes. Climate Change: Understand the difference between weather and climate. Interdependence: Consider how environments support human needs despite risks.
	Who lives in Antarctica?	Appreciation of Nature: Investigate extreme environments and biodiversity. Interdependence: Understand adaptations needed for survival.



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		Climate Change: Explore evidence of environmental change in polar regions. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Discuss ways humans can reduce environmental impacts.
	Are all settlements the same?	Resources and Waste: Explore how settlements use resources. Interdependence: Examine relationships between people and environments. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Identify local environmental issues and possible solutions.
Year 4 (Jane Goodall) Key theme: Rainforests, food systems and water resources	Why are rainforests important to us?	Appreciation of Nature: Understand biodiversity and ecosystems. Explore endangered species. Interdependence: Explain how species rely on one another. Climate Change: Understand deforestation and its effects. Resources and Waste: Explore natural resources provided by rainforests. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Advocate simple actions to protect rainforests.
	Where does our food come from?	Resources and Waste: Understand food as a vital resource. Explore imports, exports and food miles.



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		Interdependence: Explain relationships between farming and ecosystems. Climate Change: Consider environmental impacts of food production. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Design small-scale sustainability projects related to food choices.
	What are rivers and how are they used?	Appreciation of Nature: Investigate river systems. Resources and Waste: Understand water as a vital natural resource. Climate Change: Explore flooding and changing environmental conditions.
Year 5 (Sylvia Earle) Key theme: Oceans, mountains, deserts and global environmental change	What is life like in the Alps?	Appreciation of Nature: Study mountain environments and adaptation. Interdependence: Investigate how plants, animals and people meet their needs. Climate Change: Explore changing climates in mountain regions.
	Why do oceans matter?	Appreciation of Nature: Understand marine biodiversity. Interdependence: Explore food chains and ecosystems. Climate Change: Investigate human impacts on oceans.



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		Resources and Waste: Examine pollution and waste management. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Promote actions that reduce marine pollution.
	Would you like to live in the desert?	Appreciation of Nature: Explore extreme environments. Interdependence: Examine adaptations for survival. Resources and Waste: Understand scarcity of natural resources. Climate Change: Consider drought and environmental change.
Year 6 (Wangari Maathai) Key theme: Population, energy, sustainability leadership and environmental action	Why does population change?	Resources and Waste: Consider distribution and demand for resources. Interdependence: Explore human-environment relationships. Climate Change: Investigate environmental pressures associated with population growth. Individual and Collective Responsibility: Evaluate sustainable solutions for future populations.
	Where does our energy come from?	Resources and Waste: Classify renewable and non-renewable resources. Climate Change: Understand how energy sources affect climate change.



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		Individual and Collective Responsibility: Investigate sustainable energy alternatives.
	Can I carry out an independent fieldwork enquiry?	Individual and Collective Responsibility: Plan, conduct and evaluate an environmental investigation. Climate Change: Gather evidence about environmental issues. Resources and Waste: Evaluate local sustainability practices. Appreciation of Nature: Apply geographical understanding of local environments.