



NATURE & SUSTAINABILITY

End point - When children finish their curriculum at Moorthorpe Primary School, we intend for them all to:

- Appreciate and respect all living things
- Understand how they can live lightly on the Earth
- Recognise the threats to our planet and act as an agent for positive change

EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage children will use outdoor learning activities planned around nature and sustainability, such as planting and caring for a small garden within our quad area, as well as **exploring natural habitats** on the school grounds, and observing seasonal changes. Teaching children about **recycling and waste management** can instil the importance of **sustainability** through creating art projects using recycled materials as well as beginning to sort and separate recyclable materials.

We also encourage sensory play using **natural materials**, such as sand, rocks, and water, which can begin to teach children about the properties of different materials and their place in the natural world. Books and stories that emphasise the importance of nature and sustainability are used to engage children and spark their curiosity. These stories can be used to initiate discussions and to encourage children to ask questions and learn more about the natural world. Some books used include *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle.

KSI

The thread of **climate change and sustainability** plants its roots further in this phase of learning in a range of projects. In Recycling the mantra of Reduce-Reuse-Recycle is embedded along with the idea of **living lightly on the Earth**. Children begin to develop their understanding of **emissions** and how we contribute to them in the Polar Project. The topics of Transport and The First Flight also touch upon the importance of **sustainable travel** now and in the future.

In Key Stage One children are also guided to foster an appreciation and respect for the natural world of plants and animals around them and further afield. The Farms topic allows children to first encounter questions around ethical dilemmas related to **animal welfare** and use of pesticides. In the Minibeasts unit children seek to **actively take ownership for doing their bit** to provide a nice environment at school and home for smaller creatures. The Australia topic also provides an opportunity to consider a **natural world beyond their own borders** through the study of plants and animals that live thousands of miles away.



THEMES OF LEARNING



LKS2

In Lower Key Stage Two the thread of **climate change and sustainability** is strengthened through a unit of work dedicated to Climate Change, by unpicking a broader range of graphs and data to clearly represent the effect of rising **emissions** on global temperatures. They consider further changes that they can make as individuals to **do their bit** and also how they can begin to **influence changes at a broader level**. **Emissions** from coal mining are also briefly considered in the historical unit of Industries. The unit on Natural Disasters also allows for children to consider the **effects of climate change** on significant events like flooding.

UKS2

In this phase the specific unit of Electricity & Sustainability affords an opportunity to consider ways in which they can **do their bit to live sustainably**. Understanding of **emissions** is further strengthened, which hopefully leads to their informed decision-making in the future with regards to, for example, their modes of travel, habitual behaviours in the home and dietary choices.

In Years 5 & 6 children also have the opportunity to undertake a focused study on the country of Brazil. Within this there is a clear emphasis on the Amazon Rainforest and the impact of deforestation on **climate change**, where children are encouraged to further **influence changes at a broader level** by engaging in tasks like writing to multi-national corporations.

The Brazil unit and the Africa Study also allows children to take a keen interest in a **natural world beyond their own borders** through the study of plants and animals that live thousands of miles away. The topic of Water also provides an opportunity for children to think about **living lightly on the Earth** as a result of their increased understanding of the water cycle and how we use water daily.

Enrichment

The Local Area is brought to life and made real to the children through a variety of experiences, including:

- UKS2 appointed Climate Leaders as representatives on the Moorthorpe Primary School-led Climate Change Action Group (currently a network of 10 schools), including leading on organising the Wakefield Schools Climate Walking Relay in June 2023
- Links to The Woodland Trust and whole-school activities such as tree planting
- A visit by coach to a working farm in Yorkshire
- A visit by coach to the National Coal Mining museum
- A visit by coach to a Yorkshire Water treatment centre
- Links to Renewi Recycling Centre at South Kirkby, either through trips or visitors