

Overcoming adversity

Inspiring and
empowering young
people to navigate the
challenges that life may
bring



Why is this big idea so important for our children to understand?

Teaching children to be resilient is an important part of our core educational offer. The CUSP curriculum is explicitly planned to share inspiring stories of individuals, group and communities who have overcome adversity in all forms. This includes historical stories, modern stories and those that relate to issues that young people living in the world today are directly impacted by. The stories that are explored throughout the curriculum help children to understand how to prepare for and navigate challenge, as well as some of the personal characteristics that can support us in doing so. Our ambition is to ensure that pupils leave our schools feeling equipped to steer successfully through whatever life brings.

Where can I find examples of this big idea across the CUSP curriculum?

Below are some examples of where this big idea is explicitly explored within the CUSP curriculum. This is not an exhaustive list but a starting point to help teachers understand the 3-dimensional nature of the curriculum architecture. Teachers should aim to explicitly connect learning within and across subjects to help build strong schemas of long-term understanding.

CUSP Assemblies:

Summer assembly 3: Worries and conquering our fears

Autumn assembly 3: How to voice your opinion

Summer assembly 6: Dare to dream

History

Year 1 The lives of significant individuals:

Pupils learn about significant individuals who have overcome adversity to shape history

Year 4 Ancient civilisation - Egypt:

Reference to how the ancient Egyptians overcame challenges through problem solving, invention and building knowledge

Music

Year 2: Block E Introducing tempo and dynamics

A chance to think about how different people access music, through the lives of amazing people such as Evelyn Glennie

Science

Year 6: Evolution and inheritance

An exploration of the changing theories of evolution and how significant scientists have challenged the beliefs of others over time

Writing

Year 5 Biographies:

An opportunity for pupils to write about inspiring people who have overcome adversity to achieve great things

Year 2 Simple retelling of a narrative:

An opportunity for pupils to learn and write about some of the popular Aesop's fables, such as The hare and the tortoise

Reading:

Year 1 - The Lion Inside

A modern take on Aesop's popular fable exploring inner bravery and strength

Year 3 - Sam Wu is not afraid...

Explores how young people overcome their fears

Year 3 - The Great Foodbank Heist

Explores themes around navigating the rising cost of living

Year 5 - The Explorer

An adventure story based around a group of children learning to survive in the rainforest alone

Year 6 - Dare to be you

A great book to prepare young people to find confidence in themselves