

The natural world

Exploring the natural world and understanding how humans interact with it



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

One of the great joys about our natural world is that our understanding of how it works is constantly evolving. Soaking pupils in the richness of the world around them will help them to connect with nature and promote curiosity in our learners. Through the CUSP curriculum, pupils will build rich knowledge stores about the natural world but crucially, become inquisitive and skilled in asking questions and seeking answers. Our ambition is that pupils understand and respect the world around them, knowing that they are the custodians of the incredible resources that our world provides to them and taking joy in discovering more about nature.

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.

Year 6 Geography: Physical processes

An introduction to amazing natural phenomena such as volcanoes

Year 5 Geography: Biomes and environmental regions

An exploration of different biomes and how they change

Science

Year 1: Seasons and weather

An early introduction to a natural phenomenon that they experience first-hand every day

Years 1, 2 and 3 Plants:

A exploration of different types of plants including trees, the parts of a plant and how they grow

Year 1, 2, 4 and 5 Animals including humans:

Recognising different types of animals and the similarities and differences between them, including physical processes such as digestion

Year 3 Rocks:

Reference to rock formation, soil types and fossils

Year 3 and 5 Forces:

An introduction to forces in the world around us

Years 3 and 6 Light:

Reference to light and shadows, including light sources and colour

Year 4 States of matter:

Understanding the make-up of the world around us and how this changes

Year 4 Sound:

An introduction to how sound is made and how it travels

Year 5 Earth and space:

An introduction to our place in the universe and beyond our planet

Year 6 Evolution and inheritance:

Reference to how life has evolved over time

Reading:

Year 1 - The Storm Whale

A beautiful story exploring the relationship between humans and animals

Year 2- The Street beneath my feet

A fantastic exploration of what lies beneath our feet

Year 3 - Pebble in my Pocket

The story of a pebble through time

Year 4 - What a Waste

A non-fiction exploration of how to protect our planet

Year 5- Shackleton's Journey

The true story of Ernest Shackleton's quest to the North Pole