

# The big ideas

## What is a big idea?

*Big ideas are not taught directly but are built from small ideas linked together. They are sometimes described as 'powerful' because they have greater explanatory power in helping learners to understand the world.*

*Wynne Harlen, Impact Magazine – Chartered College of Teaching, 2017*

The CUSP curriculum is underpinned by a series of big ideas. These are key concepts that are not taught in isolation but instead, have been deliberately and intricately woven into the warp and weft of the whole curriculum. Put simply, at CUSP, we have built the curriculum in three dimensions so that pupils can better understand the world around them, connecting new learning and helping them to develop and challenge their thinking. We selected the big ideas that we believe are crucial for children living in modern Britain and beyond to make sense of. The following document outlines the essence of each of these ideas and where they can be found in the architecture of the curriculum.

### Environmental responsibility

Understanding and embracing our duty to care for and protect the planet



### The natural world

Exploring the natural world and understanding how humans interact with it



### Understanding others

Celebrating the rich diversity of human-kind



### Community, citizenship and the wider world

Developing a sense of how we live positively together in our diverse world



### Overcoming adversity

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



### Migration

Studying the cause and effects of the movement of people throughout history and how it impacts on our life today



### Technology and the advancement of humanity

Recognising the advances that have been made throughout history and how these impact on life today



### Friendship and kindness

Teaching young people about the importance of kindness, tolerance and wellness in modern society



### British heritage

Learning about how we live in modern Britain today and how this has been influenced over time

