

Climate

Climate learning focuses on seasons, learning zones of the world and then specific issues that may interact with the climate such as global warming, extreme weather, and the importance of carbon sinks. We begin learning about the climate in Reception, where they explore what the different seasons are. In KS1 they build on this learning by observing the seasonal weather changes and learn what global warming is, what contributes to global warming and the impact it has. KS2 further develop their understanding of the negative impact global warming has on the climate and ways in which can make positive changes. In Year 4, they will build on knowledge from Year 3 by learning how climate change affects extreme weather and the impact of extreme weather. They will relate this to their local climate. In Year 6, this learning is further enhanced by learning about the migration of people and how climate change is an influencing factor.

Habitat

Habitat learning focuses on the importance of nature and wildlife. Children learn about a variety of habitats through their time in school, from the prehistoric land of dinosaurs in Reception to our local environment in Year 1, habitats and microhabitats in Year 2 to rainforests in Year 3. In Year 4, children are provided with the opportunity to create their own local habitat through maintaining a wild flower meadow which allows them to understand the importance of preserving our nature and the risks that may occur to living things if we do not. Children are engaged in inspiring lessons where they have the opportunity to learn what a habitat is, why they might need protection and how we can preserve nature. Children are encouraged, through experiences with nature, such as planting and maintaining their produce in the allotment to appreciate, love and nurture their local environment.

Guardians of our Planet

At Wray Common, as a whole school community, we ensure that environmental learning is entwined in our inspiring curriculum. Our aim is to develop citizens, both adults and children, who are actively 'Guardians of our Planet'. They are passionate about nature and the environment, knowledgeable about processes and change and determined in applying their values as a voice for nature through our four key strands.

Sustainability

Sustainability learning focuses on educating ourselves as Wray Common citizens about the ways in which we and others can support and nurture our immediate and world-wide environment. Children in KS1 learn about pollution and littering while beginning to understand the relationship between these issues and nature. In Year 2, children will relate their topic of Everyday Materials in Science, to plastic pollution and littering. They will discuss eco-friendly materials as well as learning about the three Rs. Children in KS2 have a more in-depth knowledge of what it means to live in a sustainable way and what factors affect sustainability such as food millage and renewable energy. Children are involved in discussion-based learning about positive sustainable lifestyle choices we can make and the direct impact this will have on our environment both local and global. As Wray Common citizens we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint.

Social Responsibility

Social Responsibility is interlinked with all of our environment learning. We empower children to be makers of change through teaching them the importance of the impact they have on their own environments. Children across the school learn about the close relationships between people and their environments. Through our Wray Common Citizen Passports children are able to evidence how they are responsible citizens themselves. Children are provided with a range of opportunities to demonstrate social responsibility such as, planting and harvesting in the allotment, making conscious choices around food waste, choosing to recycle and reuse school's resources where possible and making new habitats for animals.

The children of Wray Common School are the drivers for change in our developing Guardians of our Planet Curriculum. Following the whole school topic, a celebration of the environment, children aspired to create an Eco Council. This council provides the opportunity for children to further determine environmental changes in their school and local area. Across the last few years, members of the Eco Council have championed pen recycling, food waste, creating our own compost, planting fruit trees, and creating sustainable resources to be used in our outdoor classroom. Wray Common School received the Eco School award.