



The Village Federation of Carsington & Hopton and Kirk Ireton Primary Schools



Environmental Policy

Definition:

Environmental Education is the means by which children develop awareness and understanding of the interrelationships between living things and their habitats, the dependence for survival, of all life, on the earth's life support systems, and the importance of human settlement and activities.

Aims

- To stimulate natural curiosity and awareness of the environment.
- To enable pupils to develop the knowledge, values and skills to participate in decisions about the way they do things individually and collectively, both locally and globally, that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future.
- To develop positive and responsible attitudes towards our environment and towards others, and to make children aware of the link between their own actions and behaviour, and its effect on the environment.
- To encourage children to examine the environment through all subjects and to further their understanding by research and investigation.
- To involve the children in the decision making processes affecting the school environment.

Content

- The content will meet National and LA requirements. The policy will be interpreted through a cross curricular approach.
- Children will be given first-hand experience and practical activities locally and when possible further afield. This enables the collection and analysis of data.
- The children are helped to understand that their own actions, as well as the actions of others, affect the environment, and that they can play a part in protecting and improving its quality.
- Opportunities will be provided for children to be involved in caring for and improving the local environment.
- Children will be given opportunities to reach their own decisions and make their own choices about the school environment, through the school ECO committee.
- Children will be helped to develop a range of skills for investigating the environment to increase understanding and enjoyment.
- Active promotion of positive behaviour to all people in a caring environment ensures that the ethos of good citizenship is promoted throughout the school.
- By teaching children the importance of environmental awareness and issues of sustainability, we hope to influence parents, grandparents and the local community.
- Environmental Education will encourage children to make the link between their local environment and its conservation problems, with wider issues, such as citizenship and the individual's role in society. It will help pupils appreciate that problems can be interrelated, and to understand how factors affect one another.

Continuity and Progression

- All children will be involved in environmental education. They will be introduced to concepts and values associated with the subject at an appropriate level and tasks are differentiated to meet the learning needs of all children. All children will have opportunities to be involved in decision making in order to feel ownership of their school.

The Learning Environment

- Children are encouraged to take pride in their classroom, school and outdoor environment. They are continually encouraged to keep them tidy and attractive. Displays have an important role to play and we ensure that they are up to date, interesting and attractive.
- The school is equipped with compost and recycling bins. Children's sinks are fitted with push taps, and the school uses motion sensors to on its light fittings.
- The happy and caring environment that exists throughout the school reflects the positive attitudes of all of the school members towards each other and the environment.