Sustainability and Climate Change

Anson Primary School Geography Curriculum

Year 1 to Year 6 Progression Plan

Aims and Intentions:

At Anson Primary School we place environmental education at the very heart of our curriculum. In all subjects we attempt to 'green' our teaching and learning making choices which enhance the children's positive view of our planet and their role in the continued sustainability of our world.

We frame this in a positive way looking at the stories of success rather than the delivery of doom-laden streams. Our interactive activities ensure the children grow into adults with a positivity and creative mindset to all problem-solving.

This plan outlines how sustainability, climate change, and environmental awareness - with a focus on biodiversity, energy, food, consumption & waste, transport, and water - can be used as core themes to meet the UK Geography curriculum objectives from Year 1 to Year 6.

The approach ensures clear progression and comprehensive coverage of curriculum requirements. The activities suggested are merely suggestions and our Eco and Sustainability lead has the freedom to adapt and create activities and experience that represent the rapidly changing environmental situation as well as developing issue in the local area.

Year 1: Understanding Our Local Environment

Key Geography Objectives:

- Name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom.
- Understand basic geographical vocabulary related to physical and human features.
- Use simple fieldwork and observational skills.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Identify different plants and animals in the school grounds and local parks.
- **Energy:** Discuss simple concepts of energy use at school (e.g., lights and heating).
- **Food:** Explore where food comes from and identify local sources.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Understand the importance of recycling and composting.
- **Transport:** Observe and map different types of transport near the school.
- **Water:** Identify and discuss the importance of water for plants, animals, and humans.

Activities:

- Create simple maps of the school environment, marking biodiversity hotspots and green spaces.
- Conduct a litter survey and set up a class recycling station.
- Plant and maintain a class garden, observing how water supports plant growth.
- Map safe walking routes to school and discuss the benefits of walking or cycling.

Year 2: Local and Global Comparisons

Key Geography Objectives:

- Understand geographical similarities and differences between a small area of the UK and a contrasting non-European country.
- Use world maps, atlases, and globes to identify continents and oceans.
- Use aerial photographs and simple maps.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Compare local wildlife with that of a tropical rainforest.
- **Energy:** Discuss solar energy in sunny regions compared to the UK.
- **Food:** Explore how food is grown differently in tropical climates.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Investigate how different communities manage waste.
- **Transport:** Compare modes of transport in urban and rural areas.
- **Water:** Understand the role of rainfall in tropical ecosystems compared to the UK.

Activities:

- Create a weather comparison chart between the UK and a tropical region.
- Map key features of both locations, including natural resources.
- Conduct a simple experiment to understand rainwater collection.
- Explore ways people in tropical regions conserve water and energy.

Year 3: Climate Patterns and Environmental Responsibility

Key Geography Objectives:

- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including climate zones, rivers, mountains, and the water cycle.
- Name and locate counties and cities of the UK.
- Understand the importance of the environment and human geography, including land use.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Explore the impact of climate patterns on local flora and fauna.
- **Energy:** Investigate how weather affects renewable energy sources.
- **Food:** Understand seasonal food production and its environmental impact.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Study the lifecycle of packaging materials and waste management.
- **Transport:** Analyze how weather affects transport systems.
- **Water:** Understand the water cycle and its importance to ecosystems.

Activities:

- Create a water cycle model and discuss its relevance to local agriculture.
- Research how different climates support specific crops.
- Conduct a waste audit and categorize recyclable materials.
- Explore renewable energy options for local communities.

Year 4: Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living

Key Geography Objectives:

- Understand key aspects of human geography, including types of settlements, economic activity, and trade links.
- Identify key physical features such as rivers, mountains, and coasts.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Investigate how human settlements impact wildlife habitats.
- **Energy:** Study the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy sources.
- **Food:** Explore the environmental impact of importing food versus local sourcing.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Analyze household waste and strategies for waste reduction.
- **Transport:** Explore sustainable transport options, including electric vehicles and cycling.
- **Water:** Investigate how urban areas manage water supply and drainage.

Activities:

- Research and present information on renewable energy projects in the UK.
- Conduct an energy audit of the school and suggest ways to reduce energy use.
- Create a map tracing the journey of a common food item from farm to table.
- Design a sustainable transport plan for the local community.

Year 5: Global Environmental Issues and Climate Change

Key Geography Objectives:

- Identify and locate major world biomes and climate zones.
- Understand the distribution of natural resources, including energy, food, and water.
- Use maps, atlases, and digital mapping.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Study how climate change affects biodiversity in different biomes.
- **Energy:** Analyze global energy consumption and its environmental impact.
- **Food:** Investigate how climate change affects global food production.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Examine the global problem of plastic pollution.
- **Transport:** Study the environmental impact of global shipping and aviation.
- **Water:** Explore the issue of water scarcity and its effects on communities.

Activities:

- Create biome dioramas that highlight the impact of climate change.
- Map global energy resources and discuss their sustainability.
- Debate solutions to reduce plastic waste.
- Research water-saving technologies used around the world.

Year 6: Sustainable Futures and Geographical Inquiry

Key Geography Objectives:

- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, and record human and physical features.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences between regions.
- Communicate geographical information in a variety of ways.

Thematic Focus:

- **Biodiversity:** Explore conservation projects and their impact on ecosystems.
- **Energy:** Investigate how communities transition to renewable energy.
- **Food:** Develop solutions for reducing food waste in schools and communities.
- **Consumption & Waste:** Study circular economies and how they reduce waste.
- **Transport:** Examine urban planning for sustainable transport systems.
- **Water:** Investigate how communities adapt to water scarcity and flooding.

Activities:

- Conduct a field study to assess the sustainability of a local urban area.
- Develop and present an environmental action plan for the school or local community.
- Create digital presentations on climate resilience strategies around the world.
- Participate in a campaign to reduce single-use plastics in the school.

Curriculum Framework (at a glance)

	Autumn 1 Food	Autumn 2 Consumption & Waste	Spring 1 Energy	Spring 2 Transport	Summer 1 Biodiversity	Summer 2 Water
Y1	Where does food come from?	Why is recycling and composting important?	What energy can we see at school?	What transport is near the school?	What plants & animals are in the school grounds?	Why is water important?
Y2	How is food grown in tropical climates?	How does the community manage waste?	How does solar energy different around the world?	How is transport different in urban and rural areas?	How is local wildlife different to a tropical rainforest?	How is rainfall different in the UK and tropical rainforests?
Y3	What is seasonal food production?	What is the lifecycle of packaging?	How does weather affect renewal energy sources?	How does the weather affect transport systems?	How does climate change impact flora and fauna?	What is the water cycle and how does it impact ecosystems?
Y4	What is the environmental impact of importing food?	How do we reduce household waste?	What are renewal and non-renewable energy sources?	What are sustainable transport options?	How does human settlement impact wildlife habitats?	How do we manage water supply and drainage?
Y5	How does climate change impact from production?	Is there a global problem of plastic pollution	What is global energy consumption's impact?	What is the impact of global shipping and aviation?	How does climate change impact biomes?	How does water scarcity affect communities?
Y6	How can we be creative around food waste solutions?	How do circular communities reduce waste?	How do we transition to renewable energy?	Can we create a sustainable transport system?	How do conservation projects work?	How do communicates adapt to drought to flooding?

Assessment and Progression

- **Year 1-2:** Focus on local environments and simple global comparisons, integrating the six thematic elements.
- **Year 3-4:** Expand to climate zones, environmental responsibility, and human-environment interactions.
- **Year 5-6:** Emphasize global environmental issues, climate resilience, and sustainable futures, with a deepening understanding of the six thematic elements.

Outcomes

By framing the Geography curriculum around sustainability and climate change, with a structured focus on biodiversity, energy, food, consumption & waste, transport, and water, pupils gain a comprehensive understanding of the world while developing a strong sense of environmental responsibility and global citizenship.