



FOREST SCHOOL & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

INTENT

The intent for our Eco Curriculum is to improve our children's understanding of how to live and be part of a sustainable world and how they can be responsible citizens in a world where environmental issues grow more pressing by the day.

We aim to educate them across a wide range of issues from the biodiversity of life in their school and neighbourhood to their use of energy and water, both at school and at home, and how to deal with litter and waste. Our aim is to see them become true global citizens where their personal impact can be felt on a much wider stage across the planet.

IMPLEMENTATION

Environmental topics are taught throughout school from Reception up to Year 6. These topics are addressed in a cross-curricular manner through subjects such as Science, geography, writing and PSHE where meaningful links are made.

LINKS TO EYFS

Understanding the World

Intent

It is important to us that all children have the opportunity to make sense of the world around them through first hand experiences. This includes their physical world as well as their community. We are a culturally diverse school and we aim to educate children about and celebrate what is important to the children and families that we serve. Our physical environment at Queenswell allows children to connect with nature through our Environmental Education and Forest School approach. These first-hand experiences help to enrich and widen the children's vocabulary, supporting communication and Language; and later reading comprehension as well.

Implementation

We provide a *culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically* diverse environment. This includes:

- providing a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems
- globes and maps in every class
- Forest School approach to learning across the curriculum
- Our onsite environmental features including pond, meadow and wooded areas.
- A range of off-site visits such as parks, museums and places of worship
- Celebrating a range of religious and cultural practices throughout the year.
- Planned visitors from important members of society such as Fire fighters, police officers, dentist, nurses.
- Continuous provision that makes the most of the weather as a learning resource and using this to support learning around seasons.
- Continuous provision that reflects that cultural diversity of the children.



FOREST SCHOOL and Environment Education Overview and Learning Questions

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
EYFS	<p>Children are confident and excited to engage with the real world. They use newly learnt vocabulary to make sense of and talk about the world around them. Children have developed positive attitudes towards the world around them including people and communities. They have sensitivity towards the impact of varying factors on the natural world and the need to live sustainable lives.</p> <p>Forest School Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risky play and risk management (rope bridge, swing, hammock) • Making use of natural materials across curriculum • Hands-on outdoor experiences using the senses • Exploring changes of weather and seasons • Personal development -Mindfulness and well-being and self-confidence 					
Year 1	Can I explore nature in our local area?	Can I find evidence of seasonal change?	Can I find evidence of natural cycles?	Can I find out how we can support nature?	Can I find out how to use natural materials?	Can I develop an awareness of waste and recycling?
Year 2	Can I make links between curriculum areas and our natural environment?	Can I observe nature, to develop an awareness of biodiversity in the school grounds?	Can I broaden my understanding of our natural environment?	I can broaden my understanding of natural habitats	I can gain an understanding of how to protect nature	I can gain an understanding on how humans affect natural environments.
Year 3	Can I use the school environment to deepen my understanding of other curriculum areas?	Can I develop an understanding of natural change and growth?	Can I make observations of the different environments in our local area?	Can I learn about how we can impact natural environments?	Can I develop an awareness of climate change?	Can I learn about ways to improve our natural environments?
Year 4	Can I compare our local environment with other localities?	Can I deepen my understanding of natural change and growth?	Can I compare our environments with others?	Can I learn about how individual choices can impact environments?	Can I find out about ways we can combat climate change?	Can I develop ideas on how our environments can be improved?
Year 5	Can I deepen my understanding of natural change and growth?	Can I engage with our environment and understand how it compares with other environments?	Can I develop further awareness of climate change and sustainability?	Can deepen my understanding of how human action impacts our environment?	Can I explore and compare different biomes?	Can I identify areas of our locality which could be improved?
Year 6	Can I record and report on ways in which our environment has changed?	Can I improve an aspect of our environment?	Can I promote the ways in which we can care for the planet?	Can I learn about current issues around benefits and threats to the environment and planet	Can I engage with debates around environmental issues?	Can I develop my opinions about our local areas and how they could be developed?

