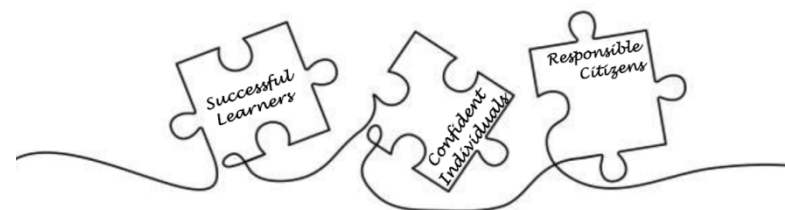




Sustainable Development Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact



Intent	Implementation	Impact
At Rockcliffe First School, we offer an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which, alongside other areas of the curriculum, provides the knowledge and skills to enable our children to be <i>responsible citizens</i>, innovative problem solvers and critical thinkers. Through our ESD curriculum, our goal is to develop pupils' awareness of their impact on the environment and how they, as individuals, can support positive environmental practices. We aim to provide our pupils with hands-on, outdoor learning experiences to foster a curiosity of the natural world around them. We endeavour to educate our students about significant environmental issues. We seek to provide empowering leadership roles and encourage active participation to help preserve our environment. Sustainability is not only one of our curriculum drivers, but also part of our whole-school ethos. We aim for sustainability in both policy and practice.	ESD is embedded into our curriculum offer, right across school from Nursery to Year Four. This is evident within several planning documents, including our termly, thematic planning for each key-stage (see attached). The 'when, where and how' of ESD is <i>purposefully</i> planned within each key-stage team, based around the following: - Formed around children's interests. - Local events, such as the Whitley Bay Carnival/Winter Heart Festival. - National/international events, such as Switch-off Fortnight and Earth Hour. - The Eco-Schools' Programme, including the <i>Ten Topics</i> (which include, biodiversity, water, waste, energy and so on). - The Green Tree Schools' Programme. - The Fairtrade Foundation's award scheme. - Educational visits, including to Rockcliffe's locality, including our local coastline. - Visitors from external organisations, such as wildlife protection charities. Alongside the teaching of environmental issues, environmental action can be seen through our Eco-Club. This is made up of 16 young children, 2 pupils per class, from Reception-Year Four. Children follow the Eco-Schools' <i>Seven Steps</i> to create environmental change within our school. Pupils take on leadership roles, as staff help to facilitate the children's environmental actions.	Research suggests that there are many benefits to child development through offering an ESD curriculum. The Department of Education states that, '<i>...multiple sources of evidence suggest that being a sustainable school raises standards and enhances young people's well-being.</i>' (DFE, 2012). We assess the impact of our ESD curriculum through regular monitoring and evaluation of eco-actions we have implemented; observations, photographs and pupils' work (Seesaw and display boards); both pupil and parental feedback; through national awards and accreditations. When asked about our ESD curriculum offer, here are just a few of our parental responses received: - '<i>It has helped my child to have environmental awareness and it has encouraged them to take personal responsibility to work towards a collective effort of improving the environment.</i>' - '<i>EcoSchools has raised awareness of important issues around environmental sustainability, food and air quality that he and other members of the school community would otherwise be less familiar with. It has also been great fun!</i>' - '<i>It has given my child a real enthusiasm for looking after our eco system.</i>' In July 2022, our work towards ESD was assessed through the Eco-Schools' programme and we were accredited with the Green Flag award with distinction, a nationally recognised sustainability award. We also hold a silver Green Tree School award and a <i>Fairachiever</i> award from the Fairtrade Foundation.