



### A message from Mrs Powell, our Environmental Science lead:

Environmental Science is something which I feel incredibly passionate about because it effects all of us and I feel it's important to inspire the younger generation to look after the planet. As a UN Accredited Climate Change Teacher, I am keen to focus on environmental science at our school and by making our school more eco-friendly.

As part of developing Environmental Science I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who are involved in the industry in any way and would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children.

### Design and Purpose

Environmental Science integrates physical, biological and information sciences to the study of the environment and the solution of environmental problems. We want our pupils to develop knowledge and skills to succeed in a complex world, cultivating a sense of humanity and belonging and this is at the heart of Environmental Science. At Darlinghurst, we teach the children environmental science in several ways:

Firstly, our Connected Curriculum units focus in on biological and geographical aspects of the environment such as plants, animals, lifecycles and studies of our local area. We are privileged to have vast school grounds and outdoor learning facilities which enable our pupils to deepen their understanding and make it relevant to them. Please see the Science, Humanities and Outdoor Learning pages for more information.

As an Eco-school, we embed understanding of environmental problems in all aspects of school life such as recycling, littering and energy use. Our children are Active citizens in enabling our school to tackle these issues and raise awareness of the local, national and global impact, contributing to the wider world. Please see the Active Citizens page for more information.

The focused topic of Climate Change, enables our children to think critically about challenges facing the global community in terms of climate change and to explore some of the solutions to this environmental issue. Considering how they can affect these issues helps children understand that both action and inaction have consequences. Please see the Focused topic page for more information.

### Difference

Our children learn to be active citizens through learning about how to protect the environment and demonstrating this at home and in the wider community. They develop the skills of being a good member of the community, within a group and whilst showing individual responsibility through critical thinking and working creatively. They gain the knowledge of how to look after our world as part of themes such as biodiversity, litter, waste, water, transport, global citizenship, energy, marine, healthy living and school grounds. Our children are equipped to be successful learners within the school environment but also represent this within the wider world due to their effective contribution in the local community.

At Darlington, we know our children need the knowledge and the skills to succeed. It is a continuing process to encourage learning through experiences to best ensure that our children are prepared for the complex world they will be living in when they leave school. We offer our children a wide variety of experiences in Environmental Science to help prepare them for any changes they may face, using our school grounds effectively.



Environmental Science is part of our school ethos and embedded within our learning which is illustrated through children's written work about climate change and plastic pollution and in projects such as upcycling materials in Design Technology.

Our work within the Eco-schools framework, has enabled a strong, passionate team of pupils to lead the school towards achieving the Green Flag Award. The children regularly lead assemblies informing the rest of the school about their latest projects and progress.

The weekly Eco-club has enabled pupils outside of the Eco-team to learn more about environmental science and demonstrate their passion through learning about the key themes of the Eco-schools scheme and contributing to the Eco-school's programme.

### 'Achieving Excellence Together'

#### Termly Reflections

##### Autumn 2021

At the start of the term, we further developed our outdoor area by planting trees and wildflower seeds ready for the spring. The children have been watering and caring for these areas and using them as part of their Outdoor Learning Lessons. We took part in the Children's Parliament whereby two of our Eco Committee got to debate and share their ideas on COP26 and Climate Change.



Across the school, we learnt about COP26, climate change and the children made pledges about what they would do to reduce their carbon footprint. We were successful with an application for a grant to buy more equipment for our gardening project as well as further enhance our outside space for wildlife.

##### Spring 2022

In the Spring term, we celebrated Eco Week. We had different visitors talk to our children via teams including Organically Epic and Essex County Council. In EYFS and KS1, children sorted rubbish and learnt about recycling.

We have sustained our planting of tree saplings and wildflower seeds in our school grounds. The theme of 'growing' for this year's science week meant that our children really enjoyed making the most of our school grounds. For example, year 2 went on a tree count and made artwork using natural materials. Our school allotment is almost ready and we had a 'gardening day' involving children, parents and the local community to help prepare the area for planting. We continue to raise children's awareness of litter with regular litter picking in and around the school grounds. Once again, we signed up to Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean.

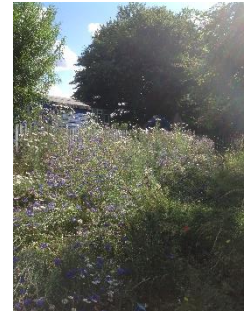


Years 1 to 6 also learnt about Climate Change through this term's focus topic. Children in Year 5 created a rap about what we could do to solve the problem and Year 6 wrote a newspaper report on the effects of climate change on animals.

### Summer 2022



In the summer term, the school commemorated Clean Air Day. The Eco Club made posters to encourage parents and carers to think about air pollution and car idling. We took part in the Wildlife Trust's '30 Days Wild' which included activities such as bug hunts, hugging a tree and creating a mini pond. The Eco Club have also made eco bricks and have been litter picking. The Gardening Club have also been working hard with our allotment and have grown potatoes, onions and beans so far.



Our wildflower gardens have been flourishing with a beautiful variety of wildflowers and buzzing with bees. We have also planted more tree saplings behind Hagrid's Hut.

As part of the focus topic, Global Dimensions, some year groups learnt about science-based topics in more detail. Year 1 continued to learn about plants and continued to grow plants in their outdoor learning area. Year 3 explored forest conservation with a focus on the Amazon Rainforest. Year 4 explored ocean conservation with a case study on the Great Barrier Reef.



In June, some Year 5 children had the opportunity to visit the new Climate Hub in Southend where they learnt about plastic pollution and biodiversity. Within our Edison curriculum, there were lots of opportunities for environmental science across the school. Year 1 looked at the importance of water as part of their topic, 'Why is water so precious?' and Year 3 looked at the importance of bugs and biodiversity. Year 5 encouraged children to take notice of what we have in our local area such as animals, plants and trees and the importance of bees.

### Useful websites

[www.eco-schools.co.uk](http://www.eco-schools.co.uk)

[www.energychallenges.co.uk](http://www.energychallenges.co.uk)

[www.keepbritaintidy.co.uk](http://www.keepbritaintidy.co.uk)

### Environmental Science Gallery



