

# SMSC and the creative curriculum

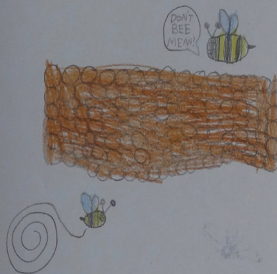
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## The Greenhouse Effect



The Earth is heating up FAST. Gases are trapping the Sun's heat making Earth much warmer. This is also known as Global Warming.

## A bee is more than a bug!



Scientists are worried about bees because they keep disappearing around the world!

Global warming may cause flowers to bloom before bees have come out of hibernation. If the plants finish blooming, the bees don't have enough to eat and die. They also can't

## Our Pledge for Change



We are going to:

1. Make seed balls and plant native UK wildflowers that provide nectar and pollen.  
Also, more plants means less carbon dioxide on our planet.
2. Don't sweat bees! They are busy doing very important work for the environment.



SHARING LEARNING ACROSS THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP  
PEER PARTNERSHIP VALIDATED SCHOOL STRENGTH

*"We know that the human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together. We cannot address environmental degradation without attending to the causes. Climate change affects the most vulnerable people on the planet. Understanding this is an integral part of our school mission at Good Shepherd school; "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)"*

**IMOGEN LAVELLE, HEADTEACHER**

## Intention

Good Shepherd Primary School takes one important strand of its SMSC education from a deep understanding of the need to protect our earth.

Issues of global warming and environmental degradation, are close to the heart of the school. This concern for the environment comes from a papal message, in 2015 for people to take 'swift and unified global action.' (See Laudato Si' On Care for our Common Home)

What is unique about this school's response to climate change, global warming and issues about ecology, is that it has led to a number of clear teaching and learning activities within SMSC education

The love of the environment and a call to protect it comes into every aspect of SMSC education at Good Shepherd Primary School.

It nourishes pupils' sense of awe and wonder, for example, when children tend the outside gardens.

It supports an understanding of social justice issues through such themes as fair and ecologically sound trade.

It highlights the importance of the school's culture in changing



behaviour to tackle issues such as global warming.

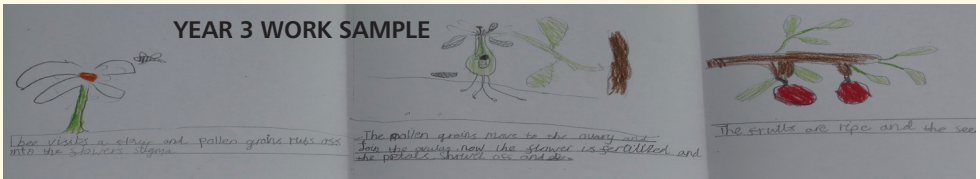
It creates an understanding of the moral issues and dilemmas around how the planet should be protected.

The call to pupils that they are, 'the stewards of the earth' has led to an exciting programme of SMSC that is dynamically linked to the creative curriculum.

The positive actions that the school have developed are at a level that can be understood and implemented by pupils at the school. They write letters to remind others of environmental issues and reminders about saving electricity.

The school has now developed a practical and working body of knowledge, around environmental and ecological issues, that children can understand and implement.

## YEAR 3 WORK SAMPLE



## Implementation

The headteacher has further embedded this positive approach to care for the planet, by regularly reporting how well the school is doing environmentally, to the governing body. A teacher has also been given a named responsibility for the environment.

This term, for one week, the whole school engaged in a range of special focus activities linked to the impact of climate change on the earth and the poorest people in the world.

These activities enabled the pupils to step outside their usual curriculum content and into an environmental and creative curriculum journey.

At the end of the week, learning across the school was shared and celebrated with a special assembly.

A glance at some of the activities that pupils engaged in, shows the extent of the learning and its impact on SMSC development.

- Children in the EYFS were learning about bees and the importance of pollination. They were able to speak knowledgeably about what bees needed in order to thrive.
- Learning about life cycles and the

importance of the environment for plants and animals was an underlying theme that was often visited and re-visited by other year groups during this special week's activities.

- In Year 4 pupils were learning about environmental actions to reduce pollution in the oceans.
- In Year 5, pupils used mathematical, literacy and geographical skills to find out about fair trade.
- In Year 6 pupils were actively learning the environmental costs of supermarket products from a range of countries. They calculated the number of air miles clocked up by each product surveyed.

The link between SMSC and the creative curriculum is also embedded in regular pupil activities. These include separate cooking, art, and drama lessons.



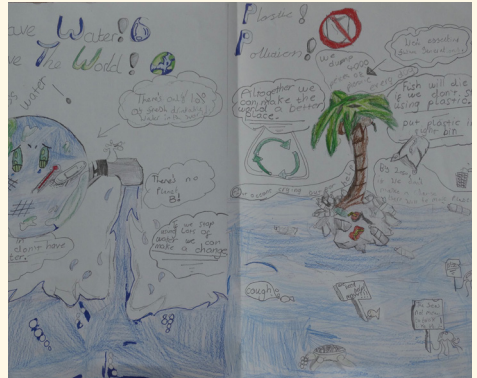
*“Children are encouraged to look at ways of supporting the common good through practical means under the following banner: ‘Think Global, Act Locally - Refuse, Reduce and Recycle.’”* HFLP PEER REVIEW REPORT, LESLEY LEAK, 2018/19

## Impact

The school has developed a number of highly effective techniques to develop teaching and learning around environmental issues. These include:

- Practical problem-solving skills as, for example, pupils consider some of the issues around fair trade.
- Underpinning this is a layered curriculum that enables pupils to revisit and expand their knowledge of different subject areas such as pollination and land use,
- a growing and extended vocabulary as pupils learn to discuss issues linked to subjects such as pollution and environmental degradation.

The school has developed its own layered creative curriculum to enable pupils to learn effectively across a wide range of subjects.



The dynamic pairing of SMSC education and the creative curriculum is further extending and deepening pupils' learning.

A glance around the school shows how every-day practices reflect its environmental principles. For example

- In the lunch hall and in classes, pupils drink from non-plastic bottles.
- Pupils try not to bring plastic into school, and often remind one another about this.
- There are reminders to turn off the lights everywhere.

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