

Juniper Hill School- Life Skills Curriculum September 2026 **Knowledge and skills Overview Document**

Topic: Making a difference to myself, others and the world (Juniper Hill School's own unique topic)

In this unit, children will develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to make positive choices that have an impact on themselves, their community and the wider world. They will learn how to face challenges with resilience, seek out useful information to help them make informed decisions, and understand how their actions can support others and improve their local environment. As pupils progress through the school, they will build an understanding of climate change, its effects on people and nature, and the practical steps they can take to reduce their impact on the planet. This unit supports the vision of Juniper Hill School by empowering children to become responsible, informed and compassionate citizens who recognise that even small actions can make a meaningful difference.

Objective	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Having the confidence to act!	I know that sometimes I have to be strong and face my problem, rather than avoiding it.	I understand that asking for help can help me solve problems.	I know that it is important to face problems rather than ignore them.	I understand that making decisions can sometimes feel difficult, but confidence grows when I try.	I know that problems are more likely to be solved when I take positive action.	I know that it is important to lean in and try to solve a problem rather than ignore it. There are times when I need to show confidence and resilience when making decisions.	I understand that avoiding problems rarely makes them disappear and that taking responsibility helps me overcome challenges.
Seeking out and considering the information available to me.	I know that I can ask questions and talk to adults to help me understand what to do. I can listen to information that helps me make simple choices.	I know that before I make a choice, I need to find information to help me. This helps me to think about different ways I can solve a problem.	I know that different people can give me information to help me make decisions. I can use information from more than one source to help me choose what to do.	I know that when I need to solve a problem, I should think about what information is available to help me. I can identify useful information and use it to make a decision.	I know that not all information is equally useful. I can compare different pieces of information and explain why some information may help me make a better choice.	When solving a problem, I can gather information from a range of sources. I can reflect on what I have learned to help me decide on the best course of action.	I know how to evaluate information and consider different viewpoints before making a decision. I can explain why I have selected certain information and how it has helped me solve a problem or make an informed choice.

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Helping my local community. New lessons	I can name people who help me in my community and explain how they can help others.	I can identify ways that I can contribute positively to my school and local community.	I can describe how different people and services support the local community.	I can explain how to look after my local environment.	I can identify environmental problems in my local area and discuss possible solutions.	I can investigate local climate and environmental issues and suggest ways people can help.	I can evaluate how local people and organisations are helping to tackle climate change and improve the environment.
What is Climate Change? New lessons	I know that plants and trees are important.	I know the difference between 'weather' and 'climate' and understand that the climate is getting hotter.	I know that the climate is always changing but is changing faster today than it has before.	I know that some human activity causes pollution in the air which is affecting the world's climate / making the world hotter.	I know that burning coal, oil and gas has an impact on the climate	I know that deforestation is causing climate change	I know that human activity is causing an increase in greenhouse gases
What are the impacts of Climate Change? New lessons	I can talk about how weather and seasons affect plants and animals in their local environment.	I know that changes in climate and weather can affect some plants, animals and habitats in my local area and in other places around the world.	I know some of the impacts of our changing climate on people, both in our locality and elsewhere.	I know a range of impacts of past and / or present climate change on plants and animal species, including extinctions, and on environments locally and across the world	I can identify a range of observed impacts of our changing climate on people locally and across the world.	I understand how climate change is a factor in the current loss of biodiversity and can describe some future predictions in connection with this.	I can identify current impacts, and a range of predicted future impacts depending on levels of heating, including human migration.
I can take responsibility for helping the planet. New lessons	I can describe simple actions that help care for the Earth.	I can name some actions which would have a positive impact on the climate and some ways in which we can stop	I know my choices matter and I can make a choice to take actions (with my class, school or family) that could have a positive	I know what sustainability means and can recommend ways to improve sustainability	I can evaluate how lifestyle choices affect the environment and propose positive changes.	I can identify ways I can make a positive difference by myself and with others. I can explain actions I can take	I can explain what a carbon footprint is and how we can reduce it. I can share the choices I will make in the future to live in a more sustainable way.

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		having a negative impact.	impact on the climate	within school and at home.		individually and as part of a group to help my community and the environment.	
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