

## Curriculum Vision: Environmental Science

### **Why should students learn your subject?**

Understanding our planet and the different natural systems that operate to enable our survival is crucial in the modern world. As population grows and the human impact on the world intensifies, environmental scientists play a key role in ensuring we limit this impact and enable us to live in a more sustainable way, and therefore sustaining life on earth for humans as well as plants and animals.

Environmental science courses are increasingly popular at universities and new legislation means that industry and the public sector are urgently seeking well-qualified graduates with a background in the subject.

### **What is the core knowledge in your subject that all students should understand?**

Environmental Science studies the different spheres that support life on earth –

1. Atmosphere
2. Hydrosphere
3. Lithosphere
4. Biosphere

We need to understand the different systems that operate within these spheres, how humans impact on them and we can sustainably manage them.

The main topics include – physical environment, living environment, energy resources, pollution, biological resources, sustainability, practical methods and fieldwork.

### **What do students do with their knowledge to demonstrate their understanding?**

Students will demonstrate their knowledge through a range of activities such as presentations, posters, short response questions up to essay questions.

There is also a practical element to the course where students will be expected to carry out a range of lab experiments.

Students will also get the opportunity to go on fieldwork and demonstrate how to accurately collect data, this will then be followed up in school with a project to write this up.