GREEN NEXUS EDUCATION

Gatton School Celebrates Earth Day

22 April 2025

A sustainability education workshop delivered in collaboration with a Greenpeace volunteer



Pupils taking part in an interactive environmental learning session.

Nurturing knowledge, connection and action for a sustainable future.

1. Introduction: Understanding the Climate Crisis and Building Resilience

On 22 April 2025, in celebration of Earth Day, Green Nexus Education planned and delivered an interactive environmental education workshop at Gatton Infant School in collaboration with a Greenpeace volunteer. The session brought together climate education, emotional resilience, ecological understanding and practical sustainability, encouraging pupils to explore their relationship with the natural world and consider how they can contribute to a more sustainable future.

The workshop began with a presentation and guided discussion exploring the climate crisis, the importance of connecting with nature, and the relationship between environmental care and emotional wellbeing.

Pupils were encouraged to think about why protecting the planet matters, how human activities affect the natural environment, and why caring for our emotions is also important when discussing environmental challenges. The session promoted a constructive and hopeful approach, helping children recognise that positive change is possible when people learn, collaborate and take action together.

The presentation established a foundation for pupils to explore ecological relationships and apply their understanding through active participation.



Visual resources supported the introduction of environmental themes and guided discussion.

2. Practical Activity One: The Montessori Sun Game

Following the presentation, pupils participated in the Montessori-inspired *Sun Game*, a hands-on activity designed to demonstrate how energy moves through a food chain and how living organisms depend on one another.

Pupils took on different roles, representing the Sun, plants, herbivores and carnivores. By holding hands and connecting with one another, they created a living representation of the relationships within a food chain. Through guided questions and discussion, pupils explored the role of each component and considered what might happen if one part of the system disappeared.

This encouraged pupils to think about the consequences of changes within an ecosystem and recognise that nature functions through interconnected relationships rather than isolated parts.

Key learning outcomes

- Understand the Sun's role as the primary energy source for most ecosystems.
- Explore how plants capture solar energy and support other organisms.

- Identify the roles of producers, herbivores and carnivores in a food chain.
- Recognise the interdependence of living organisms.
- Consider how the loss of one component can affect the wider ecosystem.

The physical nature of the activity encouraged pupils to participate actively rather than simply receive information. Taking on different roles helped make relationships visible and memorable, while the collective formation of the food chain reinforced the importance of each component. The activity also supported communication, cooperation and reasoning.

3. Practical Activity Two: Energy Detectives

Building on the pupils' exploration of energy in natural systems, the workshop continued with *Energy Detectives*, a practical classroom activity connecting scientific understanding with everyday environmental responsibility.

Pupils were invited to become energy investigators, observing their classroom environment and identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary energy consumption. They considered examples such as lights being left on unnecessarily or electrical equipment remaining switched on when not in use, and discussed simple changes that could help conserve energy.

The activity connected scientific concepts with practical decisions in pupils' own environment, encouraging them to see sustainability as something they can explore through everyday choices.

Key learning outcomes

- Observe their surroundings and identify potential sources of energy waste.
- Understand why conserving energy is important for sustainability.
- Suggest practical ways to reduce unnecessary energy consumption.
- Develop observation, enquiry and problem-solving skills.
- Recognise that individual actions can contribute to wider environmental goals.

By looking for possible problems and discussing solutions, pupils were encouraged to apply their knowledge, share ideas and consider how positive changes could be implemented in school and at home.



Pupils gathered for the workshop presentation and discussion, supporting a shared learning experience.

4. Evidence of Pupil Response and Engagement

The photographs provide a visual record of the workshop's delivery and show pupils gathered in the learning space, facing the presentation area while environmental topics were introduced. The images also document the use of visual resources and an educator-led classroom setting.

The workshop's sequence created opportunities for pupils to move from listening and considering ideas to participating in practical, collaborative activities. In the Sun Game, role-play made the relationships within a food chain tangible; Energy Detectives then invited pupils to apply environmental thinking to a familiar classroom context.

Guided discussion offered opportunities to reflect on the role of each part of an ecosystem, consider the consequences of change and identify ways to avoid unnecessary energy use. These activities were designed to support curiosity, reasoning, communication and environmental awareness.

The available photographs document participation in the session, but do not by themselves establish individual understanding or measured learning gains. Future records could include pupils' answers to reflection questions, examples of suggestions made during Energy Detectives, drawings of a food chain, or a short before-and-after check of understanding.

5. Learning Objectives

Environmental and scientific understanding: Develop an age-appropriate understanding of the climate crisis, energy transfer, food chains, ecosystem interdependence and conserving resources.

Critical thinking and enquiry: Encourage pupils to observe, ask questions, explore cause and effect, identify environmental challenges and consider practical solutions.

Emotional awareness and resilience: Support constructive discussion about environmental challenges, connection with nature and opportunities for positive action.

Environmental responsibility: Help pupils understand that sustainability is relevant to everyday life and that responsible decisions can contribute to reducing waste.

Collaboration and communication: Encourage participation in shared activities, listening, explaining ideas and working together.

Learning through experience: Use Montessori-inspired, movement-based and practical activities to make scientific concepts tangible and meaningful.

6. Pupil Engagement and Educational Benefits

The workshop moved from presentation-based learning to practical participation. Pupils were invited to engage with environmental concepts through discussion, movement, observation and problem-solving.

- **Deeper understanding:** Practical demonstrations made abstract concepts, such as energy transfer and ecological interdependence, easier to explore.
- **Active participation:** Role-play and investigation offered opportunities to learn by doing, observing and discussing.
- **Reasoning and problem-solving:** Pupils were encouraged to consider consequences, identify problems and propose solutions.
- **Social learning:** Shared activities supported cooperation, listening and communication.
- **Environmental awareness:** Pupils explored the relationship between natural systems, resource use and sustainability.
- **A sense of agency:** Activities highlighted practical ways children can contribute to environmental care, without placing responsibility for solving the climate crisis on them alone.
- **Connection with nature:** The session reinforced the value of understanding and caring for the natural world.

7. Reflection and Discussion: Connecting Knowledge with Action

Discussion provided an opportunity for pupils to reflect on the activities and connect the themes explored. The Sun Game prompted consideration of why each part of a food chain matters and what might happen when one component is removed. Energy Detectives encouraged pupils to consider how their understanding of energy and resource use could inform everyday choices.

Suggested reflection questions included: *What happens when one part of a food chain disappears? Why should we avoid wasting energy?* and *What changes could we make in our classroom?* These questions connected scientific learning with real-world situations.

Nature is interconnected. Living organisms depend on one another, and changes within an ecosystem can affect the wider system.

Understanding creates opportunities for action. Learning about environmental challenges helps children ask informed questions and explore constructive responses.

Everyday choices matter. Simple actions, such as switching off unnecessary lights and using resources responsibly, can contribute to more sustainable habits.

8. Conclusion: Empowering the Next Generation

The Earth Day workshop at Gatton Infant School brought together climate awareness, emotional resilience, ecological science and practical sustainability in a connected learning experience. Beginning with a presentation and discussion, pupils explored environmental challenges and the importance of caring for nature and emotional wellbeing. The Montessori Sun Game helped them investigate relationships within a food chain, while Energy Detectives encouraged them to identify practical opportunities to reduce energy waste.

The sequence of activities provided a bridge between understanding how natural systems function and considering how people can act more responsibly within them.

Through this collaboration with a Greenpeace volunteer, Green Nexus Education demonstrated its commitment to practical, child-centred environmental education that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, cooperation and shared responsibility.

“Every day is our Earth Day celebration.”

This was the promise we made: to carry the spirit of Earth Day beyond 22 April and make care for our planet part of our everyday choices, learning and actions.

Green Nexus Education — nurturing knowledge, connection and action for a sustainable future.