



Temple Sowerby CE School

Climate Vocabulary Progression (EYFS → KS1 → KS2)**

EYFS Vocabulary (Nursery & Reception)

Foundational language rooted in exploration, nature, and early environmental awareness.

Understanding the World – Early Environmental Concepts

- weather
- rain / sun / wind / snow
- hot / cold
- season
- day / night
- nature
- plant / tree / flower
- animal / minibeast
- grow / change
- water / soil / earth

Caring for the Environment – Early Stewardship

- look after
- care
- help
- tidy
- litter
- recycle
- reuse
- bin

Exploration & Fieldwork Foundations

- look / observe
- explore
- find
- sort
- collect
- same / different

KS1 Vocabulary (Years 1–2)

Building simple climate concepts, human impact, and early sustainability.

Core Environmental Vocabulary

- environment
- habitat
- living / non-living
- local area
- map
- survey
- record
- data (simple)

Weather & Climate Foundations

- weather
- seasonal change
- temperature
- rainfall
- extreme weather
- flood
- drought
- ice melting
- climate (gentle introduction: “weather over a long time”)

Human Impact & Sustainability

- pollution
- waste
- recycle / reuse / reduce
- materials (plastic, metal, wood, fabric)
- natural / man-made
- food miles
- transport
- energy (simple)

Global Awareness

- hot places / cold places
- Arctic / Africa
- water scarcity
- endangered

Lower KS2 Vocabulary (Years 3–4)

Developing scientific understanding of climate systems, environmental processes, and sustainability.

Environmental Processes

- water cycle
- evaporation
- condensation
- precipitation
- erosion
- weathering
- floodplain
- coastline

Climate & Sustainability

- greenhouse effect
- global warming
- renewable energy
- non-renewable energy
- carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- carbon cycle
- deforestation
- conservation
- biodiversity

Human Impact

- air pollution / water pollution / land pollution
- plastic pollution
- sustainable
- resources
- land use
- footprint (early “carbon footprint”)

Fieldwork & Data

- measure
- temperature
- rain gauge
- thermometer
- biodiversity count
- survey data
- graph
- trend

Upper KS2 Vocabulary (Years 5–6)

Deepening understanding of climate change, global systems, justice, and scientific analysis.

Advanced Climate Concepts

- climate change
- climate crisis
- climate justice
- mitigation
- adaptation
- sustainability
- carbon footprint
- greenhouse gases
- fossil fuels
- renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal)
- extreme weather events (heatwave, hurricane, wildfire)

Ecosystems & Global Concepts

- biomes

- ecosystem
- interdependence
- habitat loss
- endangered species
- migration
- desertification

Human Geography & Global Citizenship

- global inequality
- sustainable development
- Fairtrade
- ethical consumption
- carbon emissions
- climate refugees
- global responsibility

Scientific & Data Vocabulary

- data logging
- long-term monitoring
- analysis
- variables
- prediction
- hypothesis
- climate graph
- trend over time

Whole-School “Sticky Words” (EYFS → Y6)

These appear every year and anchor the climate curriculum:

- environment
- weather
- season
- habitat
- pollution
- recycle
- sustainable
- climate
- change
- responsibility