



The principle of **Diversity**

When we observe the natural world, we can see that its richness lies in its diversity. Life teems with diversity and diversity is a good thing – be it in human form, in the different varieties of a particular species of plant or animal or in the food that we grow and eat. It enriches our lives. It is something not just to value, but to promote and celebrate.

Diversity and resilience

Diversity in Nature ensures it is resilient. It does not rely on one particular species. Rather, it creates myriad forms whose unique features we can learn from. Think of the butterfly species in a rainforest or the fish varieties on a coral reef or the different flowers in a wildflower meadow.

Diversity in learning outcomes


We often create a monoculture of learning in our schools with young people all doing the same thing. Diversity is about providing opportunities for students to apply their learning in different ways, so producing a range of outcomes. It is about tapping into their interests and passions and giving them greater ownership of the work they do. It may be that they are able to choose the particular focus for a research project. They may decide on who they want to write about when composing a biography. They may undertake an open-ended investigation and see where it leads them, rather than always being told what to do. The subject-based skills and knowledge can still be secured, but this is done in a way that is much more engaging. It is a significant factor in students' motivation to learn when they are able to respond in their own way.

Celebrating diversity


In terms of what students learn, the focus is on helping them to realise that the world has the most incredible diversity. In learning about this diversity, they understand how important it is to appreciate and preserve it. There are many ways in which we can highlight this diversity, from recognising the uniqueness of each member of a class, to celebrating the extraordinary biodiversity of the rainforest, to learning the different species of trees in a local woodland or even the different types of bees in a bee colony. Where there is space to grow food in school grounds, there is the opportunity for students to learn that there are different species of the same fruit or vegetable, be it an apple, a pear, a carrot or a potato. They can become experts in this expression of diversity.

Appreciating diversity

The more our young people understand that diversity is a strength, the better it is for the health of our communities and the ecosystems upon which we depend.

A young boy with dark skin and hair, wearing a green flat cap and a white polo shirt, is holding a large bunch of carrots. The carrots are of various colors: yellow, purple, and orange. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a white fence.

“Diversity means we
are all precious:
no-one is the same.”



“Diversity allows
everyone to
be different.”

Pictured:
A school wildflower meadow in bloom

Themes for enquiries of learning
linked to the principle of **Diversity**

Enquiries of learning linked to diversity help us to appreciate that difference and diversity are essential to the health of any system or community. Diversity builds resilience. It enriches life. It is something to encourage and embrace. Learning about diversity also develops expertise. We can learn about diversity in lots of ways.

Themes could include:

Diversity in people

Diversity in plants (wildflowers, trees)

Diversity within a species of animal (butterflies)

Diversity in the food we grow and eat

Biodiversity in a habitat (rainforest)

The diversity of dinosaurs

Diversity is a good thing. We need to find lots of opportunities to teach the value of diversity explicitly, not just in people, but in all life.