



Wonderseekers

Group sustainability strategy

Registered charity no. 294582
Registered company no. 02014929



Why us? Why now?

"We are in the middle of a climate and nature emergency, and the two are inextricably linked. Climate change is driving nature's decline, and the loss of wildlife and wild places leaves us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change. One cannot be solved without the other.

When healthy, our natural habitats can reduce the risk of flooding, help prevent coastal erosion, improve people's health and wellbeing, as well as maintain healthy soils, clean water and the pollinators needed for our crops – and therefore sustain us."

The Wildlife Trusts

"Over 200 health journals call on the UN, political leaders, and health professionals to recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss are one indivisible crisis and must be tackled together to preserve health and avoid catastrophe.

This overall environmental crisis is now so severe as to be a global health emergency."

The Lancet, 25 October 2023

"The truth is, every one of us, no matter who we are or where we live, can and must play a part in restoring nature.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed or powerless by the scale of the issues facing our planet, but we have the solutions. I am hopeful for the future, because although nature is in crisis, now is the time for action, and together we can save it."

David Attenborough, The Guardian, 13 March 2023

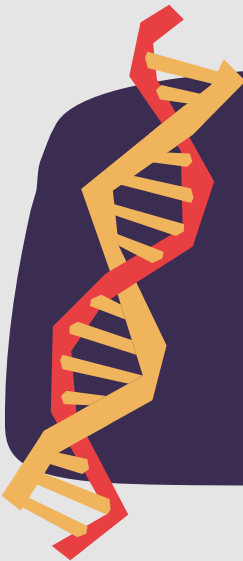
"Whatever you call it, eco-anxiety, eco-paralysis, eco-grief or eco-anger, the impact of the awareness of climate crises on people's mental health and emotional wellbeing is increasingly being felt, particularly by children and young people."

Clayton & Karazsia, 2020

"Empower every child through their life course with the developmental opportunities, education and skills to be a champion for the environment."

Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (2023-2030), UNICEF

Sustainability guiding principles



Science is in our DNA

We're a charity that relies on science to inform, inspire, empower and make change, so it's imperative we always follow the science, base our work on it and listen to the experts whose work underpins it.



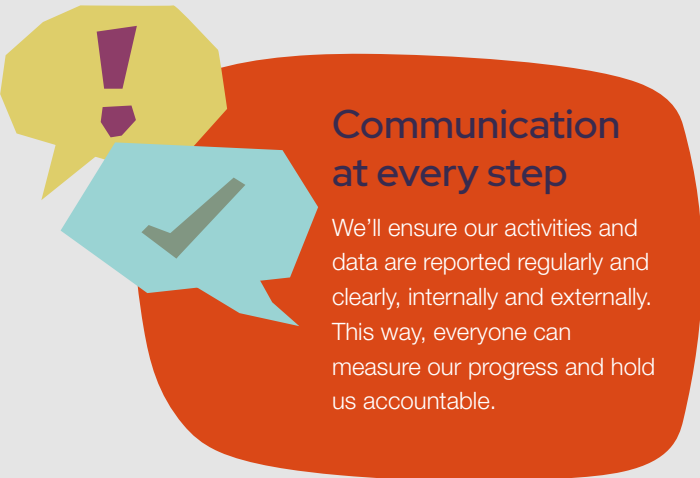
Bold action, always

The climate emergency is the greatest challenge to life on Earth and a bold, brave response is critical. We will become a more sustainable organisation and, in doing so, we'll be shaping a greener, more resilient future for our children.



Transparency is everything

As communicators of science, we're a trusted voice so it's vital we learn from and report on our mistakes as honestly as we do our successes. In doing so, we'll help those who follow our path to avoid making the same mistakes.



Communication at every step

We'll ensure our activities and data are reported regularly and clearly, internally and externally. This way, everyone can measure our progress and hold us accountable.

The time to act is now

Children and future generations are at the highest risk of facing the devastating impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity. But without support, children can feel powerless to play their part.

In our strategy, For People and Planet 2030, we pledged to use our spaces, experiences, and voice to positively engage children through science, utilising the natural world. Our overarching goal is to support positive and collective action against climate change and biodiversity loss.

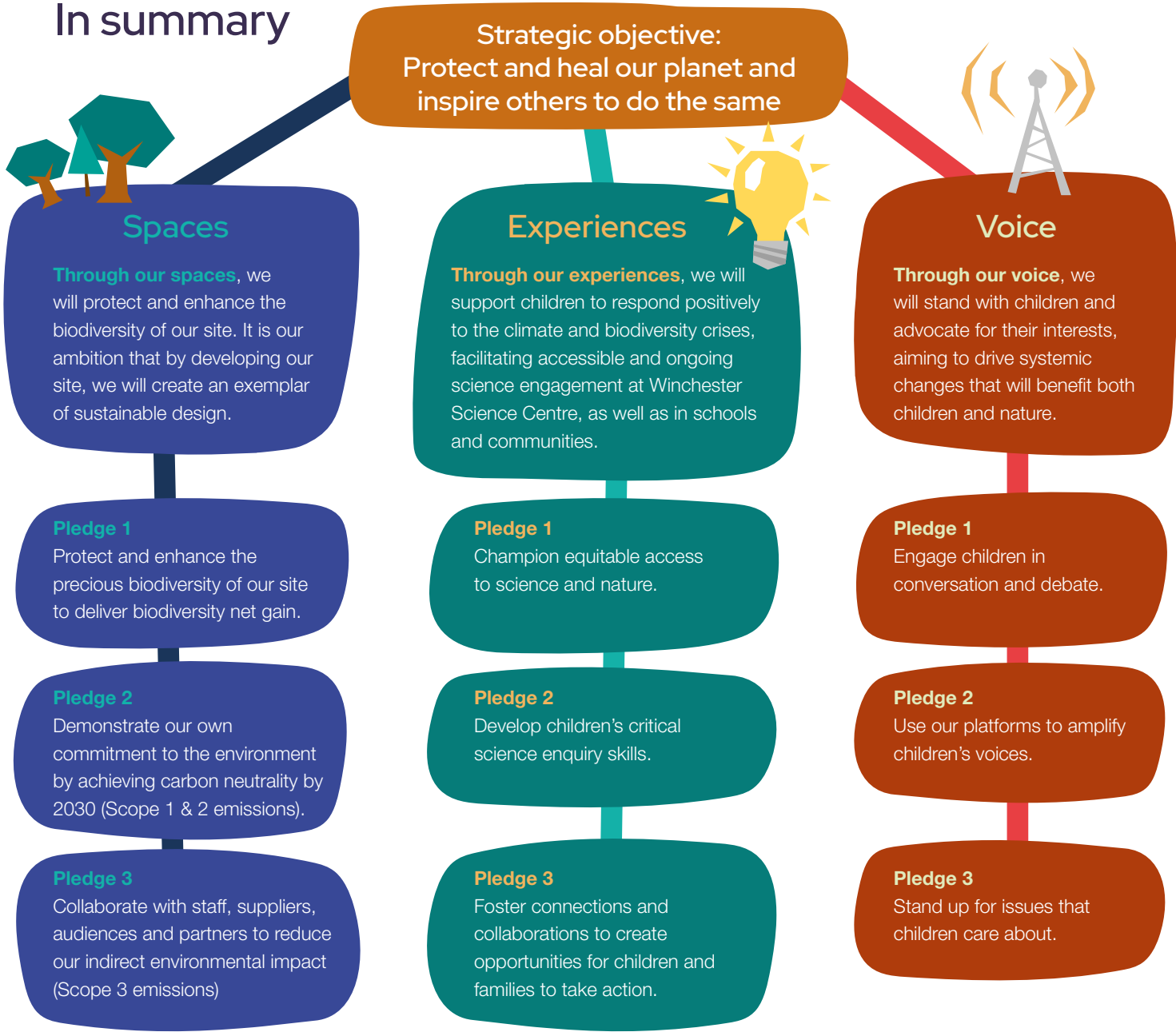
As trusted experts in communicating complex science concepts to children, and as custodians of rare and precious chalk downland in the South Downs National Park, Wonderseekers is uniquely placed to play a key role within the region in supporting young children and their families to respond to these environmental challenges.

Our Group Sustainability Strategy outlines our approach to leveraging our spaces, experiences, and voice to achieve our strategic objective of 'Protecting and healing our planet and inspiring others to do the same', aligned with our sustainability guiding principles. It provides direction and guidance for our internal teams, and demonstrates our commitment to sustainability, our values and our direction to foster partnerships with external stakeholders.

We will use science-based methods to demonstrate our commitment to emission reduction and to establish robust, credible targets aligned with climate science. A Sustainability Action Log will accurately measure and document our progress in sustainability, while our evaluation framework will assess the impact effectively.



In summary



In detail:

Spaces

Through our spaces, we commit to treasure and aid the species that inhabit our unique and valuable chalk downland in Winchester, nestled in the South Downs National Park. We will collaborate to mend damaged and fragmented landscapes, restoring nature’s corridors and advancing biodiversity net gains.

We aim to transform our site into a beacon of sustainable design and action, leveraging our experiences to assist others on their sustainability journeys.

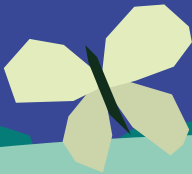
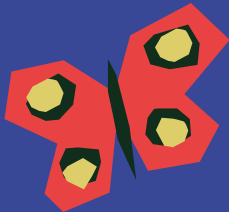
Spaces: Pledge 1

Protect and enhance the precious biodiversity of our site and deliver biodiversity net gain.

Our site within the South Downs National Park encompasses 8.5 acres of recently acquired chalk downland. Often referred to as ‘Europe’s rainforest’ due to its abundant diversity of species, this habitat constitutes merely 4% of the national park and holds considerable scientific significance.

We will build on existing partnerships and conversations with the South Downs National Park Authority, adjacent landowners, Butterfly Conservation, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Our goal is to develop and deliver a cohesive, science-driven land management plan that supports habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain.

We will gather biodiversity baseline data for the site to set credible biodiversity targets and monitor and report on our progress.



Spaces: Pledge 2

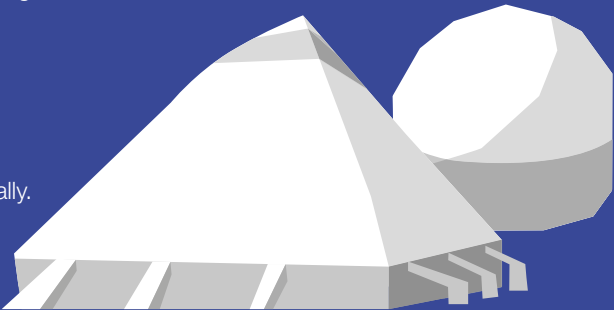
Demonstrate our own commitment to the environment by achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 (Scope 1 & 2 emissions).

Scope 1 emissions are Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from our oil-fueled heating system and company vehicle. Scope 2 emissions refer to indirect emissions resulting from purchased electricity.

We will transform our iconic building into a regional beacon for sustainability, showcasing it as an inspiring case study of how a modern but inefficient building can be redeveloped to achieve carbon neutrality. Our strategy for achieving this goal includes enhancing our building's energy efficiency, shifting from oil-fueled boilers to entirely electric heating, and investing in on-site renewable energy sources. Fundraising is critical to our success.

We will increase transport efficiency by using an electric or hybrid vehicle.

We will use our Sustainability Action Log and publish results from an independent carbon footprint report to track and report our progress annually.



Spaces: Pledge 3

Collaborate with staff, suppliers, audiences and partners to reduce our indirect environmental impact (Scope 3 emissions)

Scope 3 emissions result from the activities of our Science Centre but stem from sources not owned or controlled by us, such as the carbon emissions from purchased goods and services and visitor travel. The scope 3 activities included in our carbon footprint are waste, water, employee travel and electricity transmission and distribution.

We will look for effective ways to measure our Scope 3 emissions and develop and test collaborative solutions for significant Scope 3 reductions. For example, we will invest in a sustainable transport hub with EV charging points and partner with transport providers to improve public transport access to our site.

We will reduce Winchester Science Centre's non-recyclable operational waste through the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle to 5% by 2027. We will carefully record and manage the carbon footprint linked to every aspect of development, from infrastructure to exhibition design and the embedded carbon in materials and waste, both old and new. Our approach emphasises repurposing, reusing, and recycling as much existing material as possible, while minimising the consumption of new, scarce natural resources.

We will use our Sustainability Action Log to record initiatives that reduce our Scope 3 emissions and report internally on our progress to encourage our people to continue to take action. Waste will be reported on and independently verified through our annual carbon footprint report. We will use science-based methods to help set Scope 3 targets and measures.



In detail:

Experiences

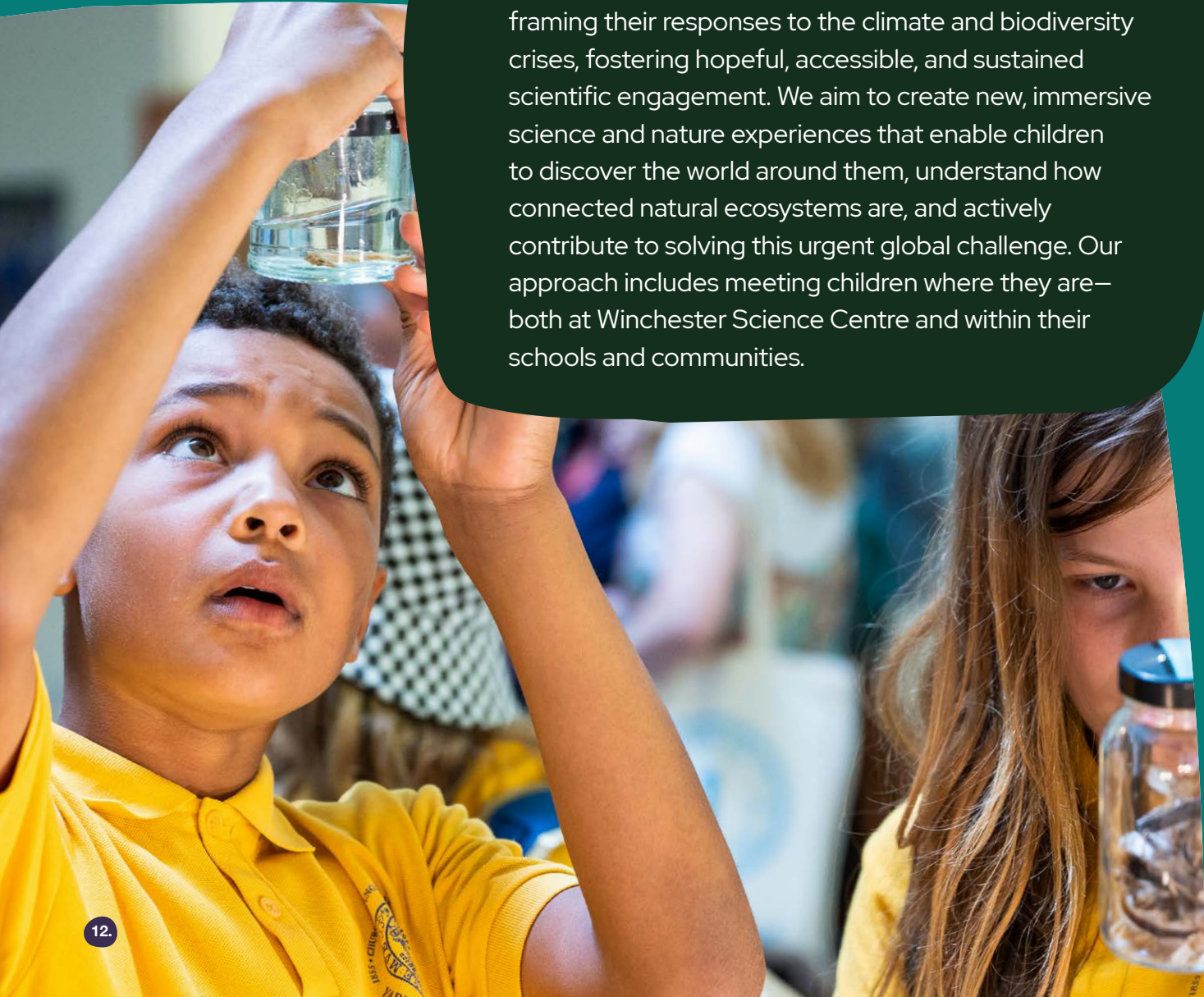
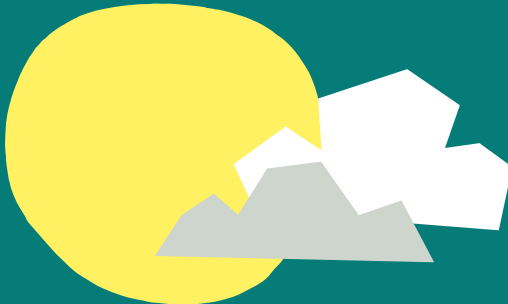
Through our experiences, we will support children in framing their responses to the climate and biodiversity crises, fostering hopeful, accessible, and sustained scientific engagement. We aim to create new, immersive science and nature experiences that enable children to discover the world around them, understand how connected natural ecosystems are, and actively contribute to solving this urgent global challenge. Our approach includes meeting children where they are—both at Winchester Science Centre and within their schools and communities.

Experiences: Pledge 1

Champion equity in access to science and nature.

For children to care for nature, they must understand and experience it. But access to nature isn't available to all children, especially those who are underserved due to disability and impairment, or social and economic deprivation. We will expand our expertise to create outdoor science experiences that are accessible, inclusive, fun and engaging.

We will work with others to find innovative ways to make our special location in the South Downs National Park accessible to everyone, whatever their needs. We will co-create and co-curate multi-sensory experiences that immerse children in nature to build their understanding of the world around them and the role they play within it. We will do this on our site and reach out into schools and communities.



Experiences: Pledge 2

Develop children’s critical science enquiry skills.

We will use scientific methodology as a framework for critical thinking and problem-solving and help children develop their self-confidence and resilience through practical experience and experimentation. These skills will enable children to critically evaluate information related to climate change and biodiversity loss, better understand the complexities of these challenges, and contribute to solutions through informed decision-making.

We will deliver sustained, repeated engagement and invest in long-term programmes. Creating opportunities for children to put their science enquiry skills into action and build their environmental agency over time.



Experiences: Pledge 3

Foster connections and collaborations to create opportunities for children and families to take action.

By fostering collaboration and partnership programming, we can empower children to become active citizens who explore and comprehend the delicate and intricate web of life on Earth. Additionally, they can learn about the diverse and multidisciplinary efforts undertaken by individuals, communities, and through science and technology, in response to these environmental crises. We will share a hopeful narrative and demonstrate positive collective action.



In detail:

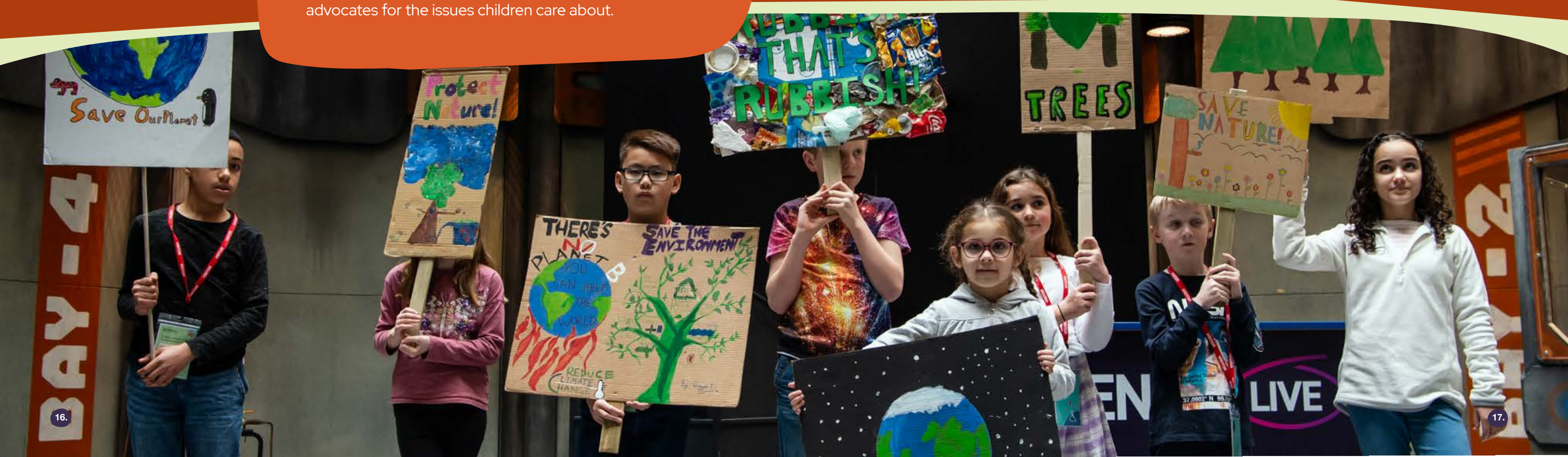
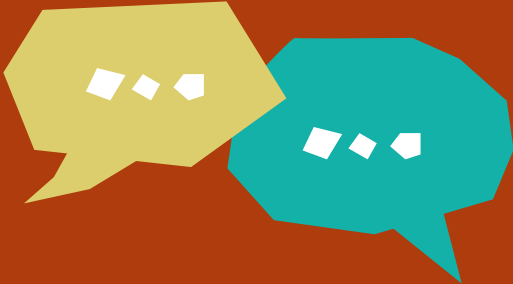
Voice

Through our voice, we will support positive change for children and nature. Climate, biodiversity and sustainability crises are complex phenomena that breed inequalities that affect, and will continue to affect, children more than anyone. We will create opportunities for children to be part of the conversations that impact all our futures, and widen children’s reach by communicating their hopes and fears and being advocates for the issues children care about.

Voice: Pledge 1

Engage children in conversation and debate.

We will create opportunities for debate and conversation, creating safe spaces for children to express themselves, ask questions and explore at their own pace. We will use many modes of interpretation to support children to communicate, including arts, storytelling, collections, interactives, exhibitions, people-led experiences and outdoor learning. In every interaction, we will encourage children to engage in meaningful conversations and ensure their voices are heard.



Voice: Pledge 2

Use our platforms to amplify children’s voices.

We will harness and evidence children’s voices to share their hopes and dreams, concerns and fears in conversations children may not have the opportunity to access directly and to audiences they cannot reach. We will use our platforms, digital and otherwise, to amplify children’s voices, so that they can influence system change, champion equity and galvanise collective action. This could involve incorporating children’s voices into local development plans or assisting parents, carers, and teachers in engaging children positively in discussions.

Voice: Pledge 3

Stand up for children and for issues children care about.

Through our work with children, we will develop greater insights into the barriers children face in responding to climate change and biodiversity loss and the issues they care about. We will champion children’s voices, raise awareness amongst people of power and influence and hold them to account on behalf of children. We will challenge decision-makers to respond to current challenges with long-term solutions that support children and nature.

The time to act is now

The pledges we’ve made in this sustainability strategy are a bold, but vital step.

They’re all underpinned by our unwavering commitment to empower every child with the knowledge they need to act against climate change and biodiversity loss and to engage and inspire families and communities to play their part.

But we have to start now; immediate action is needed to tackle our climate emergency and protect our planet for future generations.

Like every individual and organisation, we must be ready to adapt to a changing world. This strategy focuses on the actions we are taking to reduce the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss on people and the planet. Whilst this is our priority, we are also responding to the threat climate change has on our organisation to ensure we remain a resilient and impactful Charity for children.

Wonderseekers

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