

## Lessons from nature (LfN)

### **A fabulous future:**

LfN can give hope for a brighter future. Nature can be 'abundant', reveal that 'diversity is strength', that 'waste equals food' and the value of 'multiple benefits'. LfN is not about individuals feeling guilt or doing less harm and delaying a point of crisis; rather it is about re-thinking the future.

### **Nature as a mentor:**

Nature can be a source of information and inspiration for creative thinking and re-design that could impact upon politics, economics, and individual businesses, on production systems and products and how people think in and out of work.

### **Nature as a measure:**

Nature can be a measure and basis for critical thinking. We can ask 'Does this work like nature does?' 'Could this work more like nature?' 'Does this impact negatively on the natural world and on eco-services?'

### **Tools:**

Enquiry based learning is a powerful discovery tool. We can ask broad open questions to develop a wider understanding especially in relation to concepts and principles and more specific narrower questions when we are looking for very specific ideas. We can explore the natural world on a micro scale or a macro scale.

### **Field observation:**

Learning outside of the classroom to gain firsthand experience can help to inspire discovery and foster real understanding in relation to insights from nature that can be applied to the modern world.

### **Field notes:**

Records from the field can provide useful information that can not only inform our current enquiries and help with cementing our understanding but can also provide useful information and ideas for future enquiry.

### **Collaborative working:**

Working together can stimulate creative thinking and critical thinking that can lead to more productive and meaningful outcomes. Think about how collaborative working can be related to 'abundant', 'diversity is strength', 'waste equals food' and 'multiple benefits'. These things and collaborative working are being 'woven into the DNA' of the LfN project.