

# SUSTAINABILITY ATTRIBUTES

Education should offer students the chance to develop attributes that will enable them to contribute to sustainability. Whilst not exhaustive, here are the attributes we see as essential to achieving a sustainable future. SOS-UK supports students to learn, act and lead for sustainability. We aim to offer opportunities for students to practice and develop these attributes for sustainability.

## COMMUNICATION

Conveying information and ideas clearly, with the aim of negotiating changes for sustainability amongst a range of different audiences.

## ACTION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Putting sustainability attributes into action in a way that facilitates environmental and social wellbeing, for current and future generations.

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND COLLABORATION

Contributing to existing relationships and building new ones, professionally and personally, including finding common ground where differences exist in order to facilitate the achievement of a sustainable future.

## CRITICAL THINKING

Developing your questioning, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Having the confidence and willingness to challenge theories, evidence and research in your field, being able to evaluate relevant strengths and weaknesses, put forward informed arguments, and reflect on your own beliefs and choices.

## CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Having a commitment to lifelong learning and development.

## EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Having empathy, care and concern for yourself, others and the environment.

## RESILIENCE

Recognising the positive contributions, small or large, individually or collectively, you're able to make whilst considering your own well-being and that of those around you.

## CONFIDENCE / SELF-EFFICACY

Knowing that your actions have consequences and believing that you can make a difference to your own well-being, that of others and the environment.

## INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Drawing on knowledge, attributes, and strengths from other disciplines to contribute to sustainable solutions.

## SUBJECT AWARENESS

Understanding how your subject(s) contributes to environmental and social challenges and solutions.

## LONG AND SHORT-TERM PLANNING

Considering and anticipating the outcomes of actions taken for now and for the future.

## CONNECTION TO NATURE

Appreciating and having a sense of responsibility for the natural environment.

## COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Appreciating and respecting differences in knowledge, cultures, and values and understanding how systems of power and privilege relate to experiences of sustainability according to race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability.

## CONNECTIONS, SYSTEMS AND CONTEXT

Thinking about the connections and relationships across different contexts and scales (local, societal and global) and considering the implications of these connections and relationships when taking action.

## AGENCY

Understanding how to and feeling able to influence and achieve change for a sustainable future at personal, local and/or global levels.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR OWN VALUES AND ETHICS

Understanding your own values and ethics and using these as a guide for acting intentionally and responsibly for collective societal and environmental well-being.

