YEAR 6 - Sample lesson plan
Week 2 · TECHNOLOGY AND MY LIFE
Is the technology I use part of the problem — or the solution? · Frame: Me

Learning objectives	Identify and question the hidden environmental costs of everyday digital technology. Articulate a personal position on our responsibility as citizens in how we use technology
Oracy opener	***"Is technology the problem or the solution when it comes to the environment? "*** Philosophical chairs: students stand on one side of the room (technology is the problem) or the other (technology is the solution). They can move as they change their mind. Each side presents and arugment - the other side tries to present a counter argument. Who will change position? Why?
Activities & timing	**[30 min] Tech carbon audit** Students calculate the approximate environmental cost of their digital life using data provided (or data they research): Streaming 1 hour of HD video: ~36g CO2 / Sending 100 emails: ~30g CO2 Using an AI tool for 10 queries: equivalent to ~140ml of water consumed Manufacturing one smartphone: ~70kg CO2 /One Google search: ~0.2g CO2 Students calculate their weekly digital carbon footprint and compare across the class. Discuss the impcat of this carbon footprint. Have students debate:: 1. Every person should have a carbon limit, they can sell or trade their carbon credits with others. 2. Our technological use cannot be limited - it is a human right. 3. Some technology should be more limited than others. 4. Who should decide technological limits? **[5 min] Exit question** "Is your phone part of the environmental problem? If yes — are you willing to do anything about it, and what?"
Resources	• Tech carbon audit data sheet (pre-prepared with sources: BBC, Carbon Trust, IEA) • Infographic: where are the world's data centres and what do they consume?
Differentiation	**Support:** Pre-completed carbon data table with calculations already set up. **Stretch:** Research the Jevons paradox — efficiency gains in technology tend to lead to more consumption, not less. Does this undermine the case for green tech entirely?
British Values	Individual liberty — right to use technology vs. responsibility for its consequences. Rule of law — who regulates the tech industry's environmental impact, and how?