



# Geography Policy

January 2016

### **Definition**

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people who live in them. It helps pupils to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments. Pupils should learn about the Earth's key physical and human processes.

### **Aims**

We aim to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. This includes gaining

- a sense of identity through learning about the United Kingdom and its relationship with other countries
- a sensitive awareness of the environment
- an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints facing people who live and work in differing human and physical environments.

To achieve this, pupils will

- develop knowledge of globally significant places
- understand key physical and human geographical features of the world
- develop competence in geographical skills, such as data collection and mapping skills

### **The Curriculum**

Geography teaching follows the requirements of the National Curriculum in terms of content and skills for Key Stage 1 and 2. As part of the Foundation stage, children's work is related to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals.

The main areas covered are divided into four areas.

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

### **Teaching and Learning:**

- When planning the schemes of work across the key stages, attention is paid to providing pupils with learning experiences that provide a balance of knowledge and understanding appropriate to the key stage
- Opportunities to assess pupils' progress are identified within the short term planning.
- Geography makes a significant contribution to the development of language, literacy and numeracy. Pupils are given the opportunity to use ICT in all areas of their learning.
- Work in geography is planned to provide appropriate links with other subjects. In KS1 it is often taught as part of an integrated topic. In Key Stage 2 it may be taught as a focussed geography unit or alongside other subjects as part of a wider topic. There are obvious links with our International Schools programme work and the teaching of French
- The profile of geography throughout the school is highlighted as part of a whole school theme week during the year, such as Asia or South America week.

- Our extensive school grounds and Forest School play an important role in the teaching of Geography. They are used in a variety of ways to teach skills and develop a wider awareness of the environment.

### **Assessment and Recording**

Opportunities are created for assessment in short term planning. Assessment takes place through questioning, discussion or written work. Relevant details are kept by the class teacher and written or photographic evidence held.

### **Literacy**

We expect pupils to apply the same consistent standard throughout their writing, whether it is in formal Literacy based learning based sessions or more topic based learning sessions.

### **Information and Communication Technology**

ICT will be used for research and presentation and increasingly as a tool for data collection, map work and Geographical Information Systems.

### **Inclusion**

We ensure that the curriculum is available to all pupils, with equal appropriate access regardless of gender, race, religion or ability. This is in line with our school policy on equal opportunities.

### **Role of the Subject Leader**

The Subject Leader is responsible for the monitoring and development of the subject throughout the school.

This includes:

- attending cluster group meetings and relevant courses
- working alongside colleagues at both key stages
- updating resources/resource boxes
- checking medium term plans and advising on best practice
- monitoring progression
- looking at project books and talking to pupils about their work

### **Staff Training**

Staff will be encouraged to attend courses and review resources. The Geography Subject leader will have access to specific training to support and develop their role.

### **Dissemination**

The Policy is available on the school web site and a paper copy is held in the main school admin office. A short summary will be included in the school prospectus. The policy and schemes of work will be available on request to parents, LA, OFSTED and others working for the school, through the Head teacher.

### **Reviewing the Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Geography Subject Leader and monitored by the Link Governor. Changes will be made to ensure that the Policy is relevant and up to date.