

Policy: Geography Policy

Date: February 2017

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Authorised by: Governing Body

Updated by: Geography Subject Leader



Introduction

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of Geography taught at Upton St Leonards Church of England Primary School.

The Head Teacher, subject leader and class teachers should ensure that the Geography curriculum is being taught according to the National Curriculum 2014. The Governors have a legal responsibility to oversee the curriculum.

As a Church of England School we identify Christian values that underpin the whole of our community. These values inform our school's vision, aims and ethos, the design of our curriculum, all policies, planning and the school's management and governance. The values that relate particularly to this Policy are Justice, Hope, Generosity, Compassion, Wisdom, Forgiveness, Trust, Creativity, Service, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility.

Geography skills are taught through a creative curriculum; geographical knowledge and understanding are also taught within the Foundation Stage.

This policy should be referred to in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Aims

We teach Geography to:

- Develop pupils awareness of who they are and where they are in relation to the school locality and to localities in the wider world;
- Enable children to investigate similarities and differences between Upton St Leonards and other localities in the UK and overseas;
- Enable children to compare and contrast the physical, human and environmental aspects of localities in the UK and overseas;
- Develop familiarity and understanding of places and issues using a variety of resources, particularly first-hand experiences.
- Develop pupil's geographical skills and techniques
- Nurture children to learn to respect, take good care of, and appreciate environments and understand how environments are managed and sustained.
- Develop pupils understanding of changes in the environment and their causes and effect, and to be aware that humans have influenced and caused some of these changes. Ethical issues will be discussed at levels appropriate to the age and maturity of the children, and in context of our School Values. As a Church of England school, we stress the responsibility we have for our environment.
- To build on pupils' curiosity and sense of awe and wonder of the natural and man-made world;
- Help children to develop Christian values;
- Develop a range of skills and abilities – enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem solving – in order to explain what happened and what people in the past and present think about what happened.

Geography and the creative curriculum

Through teaching Geography as part of the creative curriculum we can:

- Develop pupils skills across the curriculum, especially in literacy, numeracy, computing, PSHE, history and art;
- Promote pupils awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues;
- Develop a sense of identity and citizenship.

Teaching and learning

When teaching Geography teachers will:

- always explain the learning objective;
- group children by ability within the room;
- provide differentiated tasks/resources depending on the ability of the child;
- ensure children use talk partners to explore ideas;
- use classroom assistants to support children individually or in groups.

In learning Geography pupils will:

- use a range of resources such as people, the local environment, visits, photographs, maps, globes, written materials, computing, TV/DVD extracts;
- work in a variety of contexts – individually, in groups or as a class;
- present their knowledge and understanding through a variety of ways such as drama, art, models, timelines, maps, a range of writing styles;
- explore the school locality and other localities in the wider world;
- investigate significant environmental issues;
- develop their understanding of our school values of trust, generosity, justice, compassion, wisdom, forgiveness, respect, responsibility and hope through the themes taught;
- begin to pose and investigate their own questions about the world in the context of both human and physical geography.

Planning

When planning Geography teachers will:

- ensure coverage of the National Curriculum 2014;
- use a wide variety of local resources;
- use AfL to ensure development of children's knowledge(both subject and Christian values), skills and understanding in each topic;
- carry out planning long term (yearly), medium term (termly) and short term (individual lessons).

Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage teachers will:

- ensure objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals covering knowledge and understanding of the world are met.

Inclusion

To ensure inclusion we:

- provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress;
- set suitable success criteria and respond to each child's different needs;
- enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning Geography;

- carry out risk assessments prior to an activity outside the classroom, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment, recording and reporting

To assess pupils progress in Geography we:

- encourage children to assess their own learning by checking against the success criteria set for each lesson;
- gather evidence of what pupils know, understand and can do in Geography by observing them at work, listening to and discussing with them, evaluating the work they produce;
- make periodic and end of key stage judgements. (Samples of work to be kept.)
- write a formal report at the end of each academic year which is shared with parents and meet with parents on other occasions throughout the year to discuss progress.

Resources

There is a wealth of resources to support the teaching of Geography in our school – texts, artefacts, DVD's, photographs, maps and ICT resources online. Most resources are kept in classrooms where each topic is taught. Some are kept in the resource room. The school library contains topic books to support children's individual research. Resources can also be borrowed from local museums.

Monitoring

To monitor and evaluate Geography, the subject leader;

- monitors planning;
- monitors assessment;
- reviews resources;
- provides support for colleagues;
- reports annually to the head.

Review

This policy was drawn up by the subject leader and agreed by the whole staff. Its implementation is the responsibility of the whole staff. Its use and effectiveness will be monitored by the subject leader on behalf of the Head Teacher and Governors.