

Great and Little Shelford CE (A) Primary School
CURRICULUM POLICY FOR GEOGRAPHY
Ratified - January 2017 Next review – September 2018

The importance of Geography

Geography develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps and a range of investigative and problem-solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. It is a focus within the curriculum for understanding and attempting to resolve issues about the environment and sustainable development. As pupils study geography, they encounter different societies and cultures which help them to realise how nations rely on each other. It can inspire pupils to think about their own place in the world and, as such, help prepare them for adult life and employment.

Aims

Our aims are to provide all children with the necessary skills and knowledge of geography as outlined by the National Curriculum for Geography 2013 which is to ensure that all pupils:

- Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places
- Understand the patterns and processes, both human and physical, that result in the key human and physical features of the world
- Are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - a) undertake meaningful fieldwork
 - b) understand geographical sources
 - c) represent and interpret geographical information.

Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Implementation

All teachers are responsible for the planning and teaching of geography. All the children are provided with the necessary skills and knowledge of geography as outlined in the Programmes of Study in the National Curriculum 2013 for Geography.

Subject content

Foundation Stage

Children experience and improve their knowledge and understanding of the world, having opportunities to explore their immediate environment and how this compares with other locations around the world.

Key Stage 1

Pupils are taught:

- locational knowledge, for example the names and location of the world's seven continents and five oceans
- place knowledge, for example studying a small area of the United Kingdom and contrasting this with a small area in a non-European country

- human and physical geography, for example seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom
- to develop and use basic geographical vocabulary
- geographical skills and fieldwork, for example how to use and devise simple maps recognising basic human and physical features, and how to use and follow simple compass directions.

Key Stage 2

The focus of geography teaching is to extend the children's knowledge and understanding beyond their local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America and some of the world's most significant human and physical features. Pupils are taught:

- locational knowledge, for example locating the world's countries, naming and locating cities and counties of the United Kingdom and identifying its key geographical features, and identifying main elements of world geography such as the hemispheres and tropics
- place knowledge, for example studying a region of the United Kingdom, a region of a European country and a region within North or South America
- human and physical geography, for example climate zones and types of settlement and land use
- geographical skills and fieldwork, for example using digital and computer mapping and Ordnance Survey maps

Time allocation and organisation of teaching

Geography teaching is topic based and is either timetabled weekly or blocked together in units throughout the school. This enables teachers to adopt a more flexible approach to the teaching of geography, allowing opportunities for field work and for outside visitors.

Information and Communication Technology

This is used to support geographical teaching and learning when and where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

At Great and Little Shelford CE (A) Primary School we ensure equal access for both boys and girls in all aspects of geography teaching. Equal value and consideration will be given to all cultures and all levels of society.

Assessment

End of unit assessments are made by the teacher. These assessed pieces of work are discussed and evaluated periodically with the class teacher or geography co-ordinator. Continuous informal assessment also takes place within all Key Stages.

Resources

Resources for topics are stored in the individual classrooms where those topics are taught and in the library. Additional materials are kept in a central location within the school. The geography co-ordinator is responsible for ordering resources.