

SUTTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL



GEOGRAPHY POLICY

Version 2016:1

Approved by Staff

Date: Nov 2016

Approved by Governors

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To be reviewed every 4 years

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

Statement

What is Geography?

Quoting from 'The importance of geography' in Curriculum 2000 Geography would be appropriate: 'Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds, using different scales of enquiry to view them from different perspectives. It 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'.

Why is it important?

Geography helps children develop understanding of the world around them, how it was formed, how it is changing and of their place within it.

Aims

1. To base our teaching on the broad outlines of the National Curriculum and to endeavour to ensure that the children will acquire
 - geographical enquiry and skills
 - knowledge and understanding of places
 - knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes (e.g. how water changes the landscape)
 - knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development
2. To foster the cross-curricular links that exists between geography and other disciplines.
3. To provide children with learning opportunities that are suited to their abilities, their previous knowledge and of relevance to their own experience.

Teaching Objectives

Children will be given opportunities to

- carry out fieldwork
- learn how places are similar and different, are linked to other places and to the wider world
- learn about the physical and human features of environments and how we are influenced by, and affect, environments
- carry out investigations which focus on geographical questions e.g. for places: Where is this place? What is it like? How did it get like this? How is it changing? How is it linked to other places? What could it be like in the future? What do I feel/think about this place?
- To develop geographical enquiry and skills

Curriculum organisation

Geography is taught as part of our main teaching themes, however, where appropriate it is integrated with other subjects. The children are taught in mixed ability groups by the class teacher.

Continuity and Progression

The persistence of significant features of education allow children to build on their knowledge and understanding e.g. we will re-visit basic map skills because they require constant practice if they are to be mastered.

Progression is concerned with advances in pupil's learning. It is expressed in the pitch of the activities through the schemes of work e.g. at KS1 pupils are introduced to fieldwork, maps and plans; and they study the immediate locality of the school. This is the foundation for their work in KS2 where a greater range of skills are developed, place studies consider the wider locality and its links with the world and additional themes are investigated.

Time allocation

We aim to teach

KS1	50 minutes per week
KS2	55 minutes per week

Teaching and Learning Strategies

At Sutton CE (VC) Primary School we endeavour to differentiate according to the child's stage of learning development. Teaching and learning strategies include whole class discussion, differentiated group work, educational visits, use of secondary sources of information and artefacts.

Contributions to other areas of the curriculum

Geography has strong links with the wider curriculum. These include:

- spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- citizenship
- key skills (communication, application of number, IT, working with others, improving own learning and performance, problem solving)
- other aspects of the curriculum (thinking skills, work-related learning)

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues are of particular relevance to fieldwork, educational visits and practical activities. Please refer to the school's policy and Cambridgeshire County Council, Educational Visits and Journeys Policy and Guidance.

Equal Opportunities

Please refer to the schools Equal Opportunities Policy.

Community Links

Geography contributes to the community by promoting the study and understanding of the local environment. Examples of this link include:

- Science Week – comparing habitats
- Improvement of school environment
- People visiting the school to explain their job.
- Local studies undertaken using the village as a resource.

Assessment Reporting and Recording

Please refer to the school policy. One piece of work of average, above average and below average, per unit, per year group should be given to the Subject Leader to be kept in a subject portfolio.

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by governors every four years or sooner should there be nationally agreed changes to the teaching of Geography in the primary school.

During the year the Subject Leader will monitor teachers' planning and assess the standard of pupils' work and report to the Headteacher.