

GEOGRAPHY RATIONALE

INTRODUCTION

In our curriculum geography will inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world will help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. All pupils will benefit from teaching and learning that is based upon the programmes of study for geography which are set out in the National Curriculum.

INTENT

1. To stimulate pupils' interest and to help them foster a sense of wonder in the world around them whilst developing an informed concern for the quality of the environment.
2. To help pupils acquire a wide range of geographical knowledge and skills to enable them to understand the relationship between Earth and its people.
3. To help pupils understand that the character of places derives from the interaction of people and environment, by increasing their knowledge about the location of the physical and human features of the Earth and the processes, systems and interrelations that create and influence them
4. To develop pupils' knowledge of the location of different places including their physical and human characteristics and how these provide context for understanding their geography.
5. To enable children to understand how the Earth's features are shaped, and change over time.
6. To help pupils understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they change over time
7. To develop the geographical skills needed to collect and analyse information gathered through first hand experiences of the environment and to carry out geographical enquiries.
8. To enable pupils to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and recording.
9. To use geography to develop pupils' thinking skills, skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT and to promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues.
10. To foster a sense of responsibility and respect for our school grounds, the earth, its people and its resources.
11. To encourage children to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems within the school and the wider world.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Geography in this school is underpinned by the study of real places and discovering how the people living there are influenced by and affect the environment of those places.
2. We develop pupils' knowledge and geographical understanding by first immersing them in the area where they live in EYFS and then by gradually widening their horizons and increasing their awareness of Stalybridge, Tameside and the North West, the United Kingdom, other countries and continents. Detailed studies of localities and regions enable children to understand the interconnectedness of geography. In the wake of school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, teachers will ensure pupils have gained adequate knowledge of places as part of their locational knowledge.
3. In teaching and learning, we use exciting first-hand experiences (fieldtrips such as Llandudno and Castleton), imaginative resources and ICT to build pupils' with knowledge about different places, peoples, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.
4. We use the National Curriculum as the basis for our planning in Geography. The NC programme of study is adapted to suit our local context and made relevant for the children. Our medium-term planning is designed so that pupils are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. Children build on, year-by-year, their map skills with regular use of atlases and a variety of types of maps. Prioritising the use of atlases and maps will reinforce pupils' locational knowledge and their sense of place. In Key Stage 1, basic locational knowledge such as the names and locations of the world's continents and oceans is a focus to address missed education and provide the basis for knowledge that will be needed later in Key Stage 2 and 3.
5. In this school fieldwork and first-hand experience will be fundamental to the teaching and learning of geography and where appropriate, all pupils will be given the opportunity to go out into the local and wider environment to research and discover the world in which they live.
6. Research projects in geography will be linked to other core and foundation subjects, particularly history, RE, art and science and meaningful connections will be made as pupils increase their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world.
7. Assessment is based on key skills and essential knowledge and understanding within the Geography NC programme of study.

IMPACT

Geography will be fun and it will inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. It will increase their knowledge and understanding of the world and it will be used to promote excellence and enjoyment. It will be linked with other subjects and it will have a strong presence in the ethos of the school through art, displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies. We will make the world our classroom to enrich the lives of our pupils. This policy should read in conjunction with other key policies including, keeping children safe, school visits, and the equalities scheme.