

Geography Vision Statement

What are we trying to achieve in Geography?

Through our Geography teaching we aim to inspire our children to develop a fascination and inquisitive mind about their immediate surroundings, local area, our country and the world beyond.

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?” Michael Palin

From early exploration of the outdoors, to planned visits in a variety of locations. Our language rich curriculum provides children with the knowledge and skills needed to interpret what they see.

Throughout school, we hope to instil a sense of environmental respect at an immediate, local, national and global level.

Children’s respect and understanding of how their actions affect others are developed through frequent walks around the local environment and topic work focussing on current issues, for example, reduce, reuse and recycle and litter.

In teaching our children about their own world, we aim for them to be actively involved in protecting the world around them.

How is the subject taught?

To contextualise the learning Geography is taught under overarching topic themes and carefully chosen texts (links with English).

Geography teaching and learning starts in Foundation where they follow the EYFS framework. Within this, children learn about similarities and differences in relation to places. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations, explain why some things occur and talk about changes. Children access small world activities that allow them to build a curious nature and increase communication as they talk about features of the world (i.e. farm, train track, dolls house, jungle animals, under the sea etc). Our outdoor area is used for play, imagination, exploration and awe and wonder throughout the day. The children go for walks around the locality looking at and naming their surroundings (i.e. house / post office / road).

In Key Stage 1 we begin to look in more detail at our local area, our country and the continents of the world. Opportunities to develop geographical skills, for example, using photographs, understanding and devising simple maps, globes and technology are used at every opportunity.

Geographical teaching is enhanced with visits within the local area and contrasting localities, for example, the woods and the seaside.

Throughout the curriculum Geographical vocabulary is developed, this progresses from hands on play opportunities and personal exploration during the early years to local and national studies and a remote geographical study of Africa in KS1.

Key Skills

As Geographers children will be able:-

- To use maps, globes and atlases to locate countries, continents and oceans
- To devise simple maps with a key
- To recognise the similarities and differences between the local area and other key places
- To identify key physical and human features of the local area and other key places
- To talk about the seasons and the weather
- To make geographical observations of the local area
- To use basic geographical vocabulary

Impact

Work scrutiny, floor books and discussions with pupils shows a progression of skills and an accurate recall of Geographical knowledge and vocabulary. Children are able to apply and link their geographical understanding to other areas of the curriculum and everyday life.

SMSC / PSHE / British Values

Cultural;

- Celebrating and respecting diversity in local, national and global communities.
- Recognising the things people and communities share in common

Moral;

- Develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of their behaviour and actions.

Social;

- Engaging with British values (mutual respect and rule of law) and positively contributing to life in modern Britain
- Understanding rights and responsibilities as community members.

Spiritual;

- Reflecting on experiences.