



Inspire ★ Believe ★ Achieve

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith.' 1 Timothy 4:12

Geography Policy

Intent

Geography is essential to our understanding of the world around us and helps us to make sense of that world. It can introduce us to, and make us aware of, people and places we would never otherwise encounter. In doing so, it helps us to realise how societies and nations rely and depend upon each other. Geography requires children to ask and find the answers to questions and in doing this they use and develop a range of skills that are applicable to everyday life. Geography makes children think about their role in the world and their rights and responsibilities to the earth and our environment.

Through high-quality teaching, enquiry based learning, and real-life experiences in our countryside setting and Forest School, it is our intent for all children:

To develop an interest in, and an awareness of, place.

To develop an understanding of what it means to live in one place rather than another.

To introduce children to geographical enquiry and to develop a range of skills and competencies necessary to carry out such enquiry.

To develop an understanding of the interdependence of human activity and physical processes.

To enable pupils to identify and appreciate the significance of change in geographical processes.

To enable pupils to gain a perspective in which to place local, national and international events.

To encourage pupils to explore issues with political, environmental and social dimensions which may involve a range of viewpoints.

To help children to develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment and thereby enhance their sense of responsibility.

Implementation

We implement a progressive approach to teaching Geography, ensuring learning builds on prior skills and knowledge each year.

At KS1 and KS2, teachers use the National Curriculum for teaching Geography to ensure that all parts of the National Curriculum Programme of Study are taught. The National Curriculum for Geography (2014) describes in detail what pupils must learn throughout each Key Stage, and this learning has been carefully mapped out through Yealand's well planned and sequenced creative curriculum, with different topics throughout the year having a geography focus. We ensure that all children cover all objectives by the end of each Key Stage, and that there are opportunities to revisit, reuse and consolidate key learning facts.

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum for Understanding the World, as they make progress towards, and where appropriate beyond, the Early Learning Goals.

Our school scheme of work is a working document composed of ongoing plans produced on a half-termly and week by week basis and take into consideration the needs of all our children. Each class teacher is responsible for the planning and teaching of geography in their class, in consultation with the Geography Subject Leader.

Through careful planning and thorough preparation we ensure that throughout the school children are given the opportunity to:

Investigate their own surroundings and other places.

Develop their knowledge of places and of themes.

Develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment and thereby enhance their sense of responsibility for the care of the Earth and its people.

Access to direct experience, practical activities and fieldwork.

Use their geographical knowledge to answer questions and understand patterns.

Increase their awareness of how places fit into a geographical context.

Impact

The impact of our Geography curriculum is that all children are equipped with the geographical skills and knowledge for the next stage of their education and for life in the world outside the classroom.

Assessment

As with all aspects of the curriculum, ongoing assessment takes place in Geography. This formative assessment is used to inform planning and next steps. In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 teachers assess the children's learning against the National Curriculum objectives, and for their year group. Assessments may take account of breadth of geographical knowledge, depth of understanding and developments of key geographical skills. The children are assessed as being developing / secure / exceeding. Progress is tracked on the Dimension Tracker termly, enabling an overview of learning throughout a year group, key stage or individual.

Children in Nursery and Reception are assessed against the Early Years Foundation Curriculum and Development Matters. Regular moderation meetings are held within the school and the Geography Subject Leader attends LA meetings and training with consultants in order to ensure accuracy in assessments.

Resources

All geography resources are held in the classrooms, but can be accessed by all. Resources which are appropriate to one particular Key Stage may be held in the relevant classroom. Children are taught to recognise and select the appropriate resources they need, such as the correct map or atlas for the task.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Geography Subject Leader works alongside all the teachers; monitoring and evaluating the quality and standards of Geography throughout the school. Opportunities to review the scheme, policy and published materials are given on a regular basis during staff meetings.

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Review date: Annually

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