



Policy: Geography

Introduction

We wish to teach the Geography curriculum to the children at St. John's Meads in order to provide them with an understanding of places and environments. This includes the physical characteristics of the local area, as well as comparing their life in this area with that in other regions of the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. The children will also look at 'Human Geography', particularly through topic work associated with different countries. We hope that what the children learn will teach them to appreciate the environment and work towards sustaining the wonders of the world in which we live.

Why We Teach Geography

Geography is taught in order to create an awareness of the world in which children live, with an understanding of how it has been shaped through natural elements as well as how man has influenced and changed the surroundings. Geography also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

Aims of Teaching Geography

It is our aim to ensure that each pupil is able to:

- Develop a sense of the physical environments that exist in the world
- Understand how the past has affected the evolution of the physical characteristics of the world
- Understand that humans are custodians of the world, and how our behaviour affects the environment
- Respect and have an understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country
- Create an interest in Geography and develop their skills, including those of enquiry and problem solving
- Understand that Geography encompasses aspects of all the other curriculum areas
- Understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level and have an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means

National Curriculum

Geography is taught through the National Curriculum 2014, using programmes of study and levels of attainment, being further supported by the Creative Learning Wheel. This is incorporated in the School's Curriculum Framework.

Organisation

St. John's Meads is single form entry, with classes from Reception to Year 6. Geography is taught through a variety of methods, including discreet studies, as well as Topics which may involve other subject areas of the curriculum. The framework sets out areas of study that the children undertake in particular year groups.

Planning

Teachers follow the School's planning system, which includes long, medium and short-term systems. Weekly timetables show when Geography will be taught, but it may be as part of a Topic. Geography has many links with other curriculum areas.

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Continuity and Progression

The Curriculum Framework that we have developed at St. John's Meads ensures that there is continuity and progression in the skills and knowledge the children learn from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2.

Teaching Methods

We use a variety of teaching methods in order to deliver the curriculum skills and knowledge needed by the pupils. Learning intentions are identified and the most appropriate teaching style selected. This may be whole class, group, or individual teaching (See the Teaching and Learning policy for greater detail.)

Equal Opportunities and Differentiation

We have a policy of equal opportunities for all pupils. Children identified as needing support are given extra help to understand and complete their work. This may be delivered through the use of a Teaching Assistant. This applies to children who are able, as well as those who find particular difficulties.

Resources

Resources are held in the Resources Room, as well as individual classrooms and activities areas. Each classroom also has Internet access to further support our teaching of Geography. Visits to other locations are encouraged, as are visitors to the school, to support topic work and Geography development.

Computing

We encourage the use of Computing, with cameras, recording, video and computer work. Each classroom has at least three 'on-line' computers to access the Internet.

Enrichment

As a Beach School, we take opportunities to use the local beach and South Downs to enhance children's Geography knowledge and understanding. We provide Gifted and Talented enrichment activities using the resources available to us. It is aimed that each class uses the Beach or South Downs once per term, linking with other curriculum areas.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Teachers assess the progress of the children, and work in books acts as a record of their achievement as well as any assessment feedback sheets that are kept. Annual School Reports are written, which include targets for further development. We encourage the children to be involved in setting their own targets and levels of challenge in lessons.

Role of the Headteacher and the Geography Co-ordinator

It is the responsibility of each teacher to ensure the children are receiving the best possible teaching in Geography, ensuring the children reach their potential. The Co-ordinator and Headteacher are responsible for monitoring teaching and overall delivery of the subject. It is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator to keep abreast of changes in the curriculum and update support available.