



Geography: Whole School Journey

Rationale

The aims of geography in our school are:

- to inspire children's fascination and curiosity about the world and its people;
- to equip children with knowledge about diverse places, people and resources;
- to increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country;
- to allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- to encourage children to observe their surroundings carefully and be able to express opinions about the quality of the environment both regionally and globally;
- to enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local and global level;
- to develop in children a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem-solving, computing, investigation, and that of presenting their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

The geography curriculum is fully aligned to the National Curriculum with additional features linked with local and national festivals and events. It is a bespoke curriculum that has been designed by the staff to ensure that it is real, relevant to our context and engaging.

Most of the time, geography is used as a topic driver for the half term/term so other subject areas wherever possible are planned to link within that theme including reading and writing with our class novels. The summer term is blocked as our multi-cultural half term/term as the immediate surrounding area of the school is predominantly White British however the wider local area which is largely multi-cultural so we feel as a school that it is extremely important that our children learn about other cultures from around the world.

Medium Term Plans are created with an over-arching enquiry question. The sequence of learning equips the children with the knowledge and skills to be able to answer that question by the end of the unit. This is used as a way of assessing the children's understanding of the geographical knowledge, concepts and skills that have been taught during that unit. Teachers then use the custom-made progression document to be assess the children at emerging, expected or exceeded and this is then added to the e-mag which we use to track progress.

We cover the geographical concepts and skills within each year group through different contexts to allow learning to become embedded in children's long term memory. The way that the curriculum is designed allows for prior knowledge to be revisited and activated, link new information to old information and link different schemata (a general idea about something) to each other.

The geography curriculum is ambitious in all year groups and the programme is designed to allow children to reach greater depth within our personalised assessment framework. The aim is for children to become confident geographers who have an understanding of the world in which they live and who have the skills to approach, tackle and solve a range of geographical problems.

As we are part of the Creative Children's Academy Trust, geography is designed to meet the needs of all children as lessons are planned to allow the children to work in a creative way rather than every lesson been heavily reliant on English or mathematics knowledge and skills.

As a school, we have high quality teaching and CPD in place. Any CPD that is attended by staff, information is disseminated to the rest of the staff during staff meetings and via the notes sheet. Websites and books are continually signposted and resources are looked at frequently to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant to the current curriculum.

In order to inform future planning and correct any misconceptions then children are informally assessed at the end of each session by the teacher. As well as this, the subject leader completes regular planning looks and offers advice and suggestions moving forwards, pupil questionnaires are completed, lesson observations take place and looks at children's work both on display and in their topic folder happen.