



Rushey Green Primary school

Enjoying the present, preparing for the future

Geography Policy

Mission Statement

At Rushey Green Primary School we work in partnership with parents to provide an education of the highest quality, which celebrates everyone's success in a happy, caring environment where all our differences are valued.

Introduction

This policy reflects Rushey Green Primary School's values and philosophy to the teaching and learning of Geography. Geography teaching in the Primary School is about developing an understanding of our world, through experience, investigation and learning from secondary sources.

A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. In Geography, pupils learn the skills of understanding a locality and how and where people fit into its overall structure. Geography encourages children to learn through experience, particularly through practical and fieldwork activities.

Aims

Through our teaching of Geography we aim to:

- Develop children's geographical understanding and competence in specific geographical skills;
- Help children acquire and develop the skills and confidence to undertake, investigation, problem solving and decision making;
- Stimulate the children's interest in and curiosity about their surroundings;
- Create and foster a sense of wonder about the world;
- Inspire a sense of responsibility for the environments and people of the world we live in;
- Increase the children's knowledge and awareness of our changing world, so that they will want to look after the Earth and its resources and think about how it can be improved and sustained;
- Begin to develop respect for, and an interest in, people throughout the world regardless of culture, race and religion;
- Develop a sense of identity by learning about the United Kingdom and its relationship with other countries.

Expectations

In the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, children in Nursery and Reception work towards the geographical aspects under the 'Knowledge and Understanding of the world' in the specific area of learning and development.

In Key Stage 1 – Pupils will be taught about:

Location knowledge

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

Place knowledge

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country.

Human and physical geography

- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles

Be able to use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:

- key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather
- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage
- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language (e.g. near and far; left and right) to describe the location of features and routes on a map
- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

Key Stage 2

Pupils should be taught about:

Location knowledge

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place knowledge understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and physical geography describe and understand key aspects of:

- physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Teaching and learning style

Children are taught Geography as part of the creative curriculum and Geography is taught in accordance with the topic studied. In planning geographical work teachers are mindful of the ways in which pupils learn. The teaching of Geography reflects different teaching and learning styles to ensure full inclusion such as whole-class lessons, group, paired and individual work and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions.

Planning

Our school has devised a programme of study linked to other foundation subjects to ensure that Geography skills are taught in a meaningful way. The curriculum is cross-referenced to the programs of study of the National Curriculum and provides comprehensive skills development. Learning activities are be sequenced to ensure that there is progression and continuity throughout the school. Children demonstrate their ability in Geography in a variety of different ways. Teachers assess children's work through a combination of formal and informal tasks, by making informal judgements during lesson, discussions, question and answer techniques and observation. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work by marking and commenting as necessary and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress.

Resources

Resources form an important part of curriculum delivery. Access to resources is sometimes a determining factor in classroom organisation. As part of their geographical work, all pupils have opportunities to use ICT and a variety of data, such as maps, statistics and graphs where this serves to enhance their learning. They also have opportunities to use the following resources: globes, maps, atlases, pictures, photographs, and aerial photographs, compasses, measuring equipment, cameras and books.

The Role of the subject leader

- To undertake monitoring of standards in Geography and use this to inform the Geography Action Plan.
- Provide leadership and management of their subject to secure high quality teaching and learning.
- Play a key role in motivating, supporting and modelling good practice for all staff.
- Take a lead in policy development and review.
- To liaise with outside agencies and attend subject specific courses.
- To report to the Head teacher and Governing Body on geography-related issues.
- To plan and organise the allocation and purchase of resources in accordance with available budget.

Monitoring

The Geography subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in Geography. The subject leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Geography, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The subject leader completes an annual action plan and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject area, identifying areas for further improvement. Throughout each academic year, the subject leader undertakes monitoring of Geography across the whole school.

Policy written by Laura Diaz February 2017

This policy to be reviewed biennially

Last reviewed in February 2017

Next review date - 2019