



Federation of St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools

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Geography Policy

January 2017

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere. It is about the world in which we live. It includes the study of human geography and the affects that us as humans, have on the world.

The Aims of Teaching Geography:

- To enable children to gain an understanding of different people, places and environments.
- To be able to compare and contract different localities (local, nation and international), including geographical differences, climate and weather, and food.
- To stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and develop a knowledge and understanding of the physical and human processes which shape places.
- 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 foster a sense of curiosity and wonder at the beauty of the world around them.
- To encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means.
- To make sense of their own surroundings and the world around them.
- To develop geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps of different scales.
- To be able to interpret a range of geographical information, including maps, atlas', photographs and diagrams.
- To know and understand a range of geographical language.

- To equip children with the appropriate knowledge and research skills, to communicate their own geographical ideas and opinions about the world around them. This could be in a number of ways, through talking, writing, drawings, map-making etc.

Teaching and Learning KS1 and KS2:

Geography is taught half termly throughout the school from years 1-6. Teachers follow a system of planning that covers the objectives outlined within the New National Curriculum. All the teachers recognise the value of cross-curricular learning, and therefore try to link their geography topics (where appropriate) with both core and foundation subjects. Teachers are also encouraged to take their children on visits to museums and sights of geographical importance, to deepen children's learning and passion of geography.

As a school, we are trying to move away from using lots of worksheets and are introducing a minimum of one extended piece of writing per geography topic.

Foundation Stage:

Geography is taught in both the Reception and Nursery classes as part of their topic work throughout the year. As the Reception and Nursery classes are part of the Foundation Stage, their geography work is linked to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals. The geography taught, through whole-class, focused and independent activities, makes a significant contribution to the children's understanding of the world. It also gives the children first-hand experiences to explore, observe, problem solve, predict, think critically, make decisions and talk about the creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments.

Inclusion:

All pupils, including those with special educational needs, should undertake the full range of activities for each geography topic. Teacher assessment should determine the depth to which individuals/groups should perform in each topic.

Assessment:

Teachers will assess children's learning by making an informal judgement during lessons, on whether or not a child has achieved that lesson's learning intention. This assessment can be used by the teacher to inform their future planning but is not expected to be recorded anywhere. Teachers can also measure children's learning by the work produced and recorded in their exercise books, alongside questioning the children and determining whether they have a good level of understanding of a geography topic. No formal assessments are required at the end of topic.

At the end of each academic year, class teachers include within their written annual report to parents, a statement about their child's learning/knowledge of geography.

Resources:

Geography resources will be kept in labelled boxes in the Topic area of the Resource Cupboard (upstairs in the junior building). It is the responsibility of the teachers undertaking geography work to ensure that resources are returned complete, with no resources lost, missing or incomplete. If part of a resource has been lost or damaged, the teacher should inform the Topic Lead.

Review date:

Lisa Murphy

Topic Lead