

Hallcroft Infant & Nursery School



Geography Policy January 2020

Introduction

Learning about the earth and its features and the methods used to study it helps pupils make sense of the world in which they live. Geography is important because it helps pupils develop a sense of identity through learning about their place in the world.

Through their work in Geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life with that in other regions of the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures.

Aims

We aim to give our pupils the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality.
- Understand some of the ways that they can find out about places, environments and the world.
- To use geographical skills, including first-hand observation.
- To use geographical vocabulary.

Intent

Geography is split into two main sections: physical geography and human geography. Physical geography looks at things like rivers, mountains and different locations. Human geography looks at man's effects on the environment.

To fulfil our aims we will:

- Begin to have a sense of our place in the world by studying different places in the locality, the United Kingdom and the world.
- Develop the children's understanding of different places in the world by studying the physical and human geography of those places.
- Use a wide variety of stories and resources from different places to extend geographical knowledge.
- Teach simple subject-specific vocabulary relating the geography of an area.

Implementation

Foundation Stage

Geography is taught in Nursery and Reception through the EYFS Development Matters Curriculum in a cross curricular approach. Relevant areas include;

Understanding the World: People and Communities and The World

Communication and Language: Understanding, Speaking and Listening

Characteristics of Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creating and Thinking Critically support children's learning across all areas.

Key Stage 1

Geography is taught according to the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study.

Subject content KS1

- Name and locate the world's 7 continents and 5 oceans
- Name, locate and identify characteristics of the 4 countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 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.

The curriculum is delivered through cross curricular topics with subject specific lessons. We use key texts and experiences to enhance learning. Concepts like an understanding of place linked to seas, oceans and continents are revisited at various points through the year to enable pupils to make connections and embed learning. Specific Geography vocabulary will be taught to support pupils to talk about the subject.

Specific details of what is taught and when are outlined in the Subject Knowledge Plans, with detailed expectations of content written in the Knowledge Organisers for each half term. The Knowledge Organisers also identify key vocabulary and related texts.

Resources

Resources to support learning in Geography are being developed and stored in subject boxes and electronically on the school server. Each classroom has a selection of books to support the current aspects of Geography teaching. Visits and visitors to school are used to enhance Geography learning where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children regardless of gender, age, creed, ethnicity, (or any other protected characteristic) aptitude or ability have equal access to the range of activities and experiences offered in Geography.

Special Needs

All children will have access to all areas of the Geography Curriculum. Children with SEND will be given differentiated tasks, according to their individual needs and abilities.

How to help at home

- Every half term the school website is updated with current Knowledge Organisers relating to the learning for that half term; enabling parents to support learning at home.
- Give your child opportunities to look at maps and plans. For example when you are going

shopping or to visit friends or relatives show the children on a map where you are going.

- Buy postcards and take lots of pictures of different places. Holidays are great times to learn about different places and cultures.
- Take your child on different types of transport. Children love trains, bikes and buses. This gives them a different view of their surroundings.
- Try to answer their frequent 'why' questions.

Assessment and Recording

- Each term every child in EYFS is assessed using the EYFS Development Matters document and given an attainment level in months based on their knowledge of People and Communities and The World.
- By the end of KS1 children are expected to know, apply and understand the skills and knowledge outlined in the relevant program of study for Geography; as detailed in our Geography End Points.

Responsibilities and Review

- All teaching staff have responsibility for implementing all aspects of this policy.
- The Geography subject leader has the role of monitoring Geography through lesson drop ins, book scrutiny, planning scrutiny, discussions with pupils and teachers and environment walks.
- The Geography subject leader will review this policy and the curriculum as required.