

## Geography Policy

At Garstang Community Primary School, we believe that pupils should have opportunities to participate in exciting Geography Lessons which inspire a curiosity and fascination to last a lifetime.

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognize the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

### Aims and objectives

- To enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in doing so, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to a citizen in a multi-cultural country;
- To allow children to learn geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps.
- To enable children to know and understand environmental problems at local, regional and global level;
- To encourage in children a commitment to sustain development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- To develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

## Teaching and learning styles

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use IT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities.

We recognise the fact that there are children of widely different geographical abilities in all classes and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty, some children not completing all tasks;
- Providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individual children or groups of children.

## Planning

The Lancashire key learning documents are used to ensure progression and coverage for key stage 1 and 2.

All teachers use the same planning document to plan a unit of work. At the planning stage the teachers consider which key skills can be taught and if there are any opportunities for field work.

Planning is monitored to ensure there is progression and full coverage of the key skills.

## EYFS

Geography is taught in reception as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. Geography makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. The children learn about their own immediate environment and then begin to compare it to other places across the world.

## Fieldwork

Fieldwork is integral to good geography teaching and we include as many opportunities as we can to involve children in practical, geographical research and enquiry.

## Resources

A wide range of resources, to support the teaching of Geography, are kept in a central store at the bottom of the Year 4 and 5 stairs. There is a range of educational software to support the children's learning including digital map referencing software, apps for the iPad and interactive games on the classroom computers. We also subscribe to Oddizzi to provide teachers and children fun and interactive digital resources to help enhance their geography lessons.

## Assessment

Teachers in Years 1 – 6 have a set of non-negotiables to assess each child against at the end of each academic year. These match our curriculum and show progression through the school. In EYFS, each child is assessment against the understanding of the world early learning goal.

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