



**Federation of  
St Godric's and St Mary's  
RCVA Primary Schools**

# Geography Policy

June 2015

This policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child and our achievement of becoming a Rights Respecting School. Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to this purpose.

## **Rationale**

"Geography grew as one of the earliest disciplines, from human experiences of exploring the world, in making sense of the location and distribution of places, in understanding the similarities and differences between places, in observing the patterns places create in the world around us, in discerning the processes, influences and effects that interrelate to produce places and patterns as they are and as they change, and in considering what actions are needed to create places that better fulfil human needs and interests."

- taken from "Geographical Work for Primary and Middle Schools"

It is as a result of these observations that the implementation of Geography into our schools curriculum is considered to be of great importance.

Our schools policy is developed in accordance with the National Curriculum for Geography and Foundation Stage Curriculum for Understanding of the World. Throughout this Policy, the term 'Geography' includes the Knowledge and Understanding elements of Foundation Stage Curriculum, alongside National Curriculum Geography for Key Stage 1 and 2.

Our schools implements the curriculum through discreet geographical teaching, although links with other subjects are encouraged. Foundation Stage planning for Knowledge and Understanding of the World shows how we engage our Reception children in early geographical learning experiences. This shows how Geography fits into our whole school organisation and how we have linked blocks of work so that they are more meaningful and contextualised. It is also recognised that geographical teaching may make use of current news items that are relevant to the learning of the subject.

Planning for geography ensures that the subject receives its correct time allocation and allows progression over the key stage. The scheme of work will cater for all abilities including provision for pupils who are 'More Able & Talented'

or who have 'Special Educational Needs.

## **Purpose of study**

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. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge provides the tools and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

## **Aims**

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of places, seas and oceans, including their defining physical and human characteristics
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
- collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
- interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps and writing at length.

## **Subject content**

### **Key stage 1**

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

## **Pupils should be taught to:**

### **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
- 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 extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical tools and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

### **Pupils should be taught to:**

#### **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 Methods**

A variety of methods are to be employed in the teaching of Geography, which will afford pupils access to a range of resources and ensure that they are encouraged to develop their potential to the full.

Teachers are expected to utilise many differing techniques and approaches to ensure that the Geography Curriculum is constantly made interesting, interactive and alive.

These may include:

- Knowledge given by the teacher
- Use of the local environments for fieldwork.
- Creative activities - building models, showing routes.
- Individual and group enquiry, especially where resources are limited.
- Use of video and films.
- Using outside speakers.
- Visits to places of relevance to the topic, e.g. farm, beach etc.
- Use of ICT. – simulations and use of World Wide Web.
- Use of relevant books, pamphlets, leaflets, maps, postcards, atlases etc.
- Role play and drama to create empathy.
- Photographs and satellite images.

### **Fieldwork**

It is always advisable to base learning on first hand experience and teachers are encouraged to focus attention on the opportunities available in the local area.

This will necessitate the exploration of the world beyond the classroom.

All teachers are encouraged to organise visits that will enable pupils to extend their knowledge of the world around them e.g. the seaside and local walkways and woods.

### **Differentiation**

It is recognised that all pupils must be given opportunities to show what they know and can do. Recognising the different abilities within a class means that teachers must plan at a class, group and individual level. This involves:

- Using a range of teaching styles which match the experience of all pupils within the class and begin to cater for different intelligences
- Matching tasks to pupils' needs.

Various strategies are employed to allow pupils to achieve.

1. Common tasks, which will expect different outcomes.
2. Stepped tasks, with a common starting point but which aim to extend More Able & Talented pupils.
3. Grouping, in which pupils work on a task designed for that group.
4. Different resources, same task, which modifies the amount of information given to some pupils.
5. Independent learning - finding answers from a range of resources.

## **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

This will be in accordance with the school's assessment policy which is followed throughout the school. The assessment of pupils work can provide information for pupils, teachers and parents:

- to enable pupils to reflect upon and celebrate achievement
- to help plan for progression, continuity and target setting for pupils are to inform planning for future work of whole classes and individual pupils
- to communicate achievement and identify areas for future development to pupils, parents and teachers
- to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning and based upon teachers judgements of pupil attainment and progress. Assessment is built into the planning of learning experiences and clearly related to the learning outcomes. Assessment and recording begin in Foundation Stage and continue throughout the school.

This policy was written by the Geography Coordinators following discussions with the teaching and support staff.

This Policy will be reviewed by June 2018.