

Geography

Intent

Children join KS2 with basic geographical skills and knowledge of the world around them. We are aware that our children have limited knowledge and experience of the world around because they often have no opportunity to travel or gain first-hand experience of the world. We work with our Infant school to ensure that we are building upon prior knowledge. The core of our curriculum is the National Curriculum which we have then developed to meet the needs of children in our context. We want to teach geographical skills in a systematic way so that children gain an understanding in a logical sequence, for example, we would teach children about the local area before introducing the wider world because this enables children to relate to something that they have a concrete knowledge of before considering more abstract concepts. We want our children to leave us with a solid foundation of geography skills that will enable them to fully engage with the geography of their world and beyond as they enter KS3.

Implementation

We follow the National Curriculum as the core of our Geography teaching. We researched commercial schemes and did not find one that met our specific needs to teach a progression of skills and knowledge in a logical sequence linked to the skill areas of the NC. We therefore created our own Subject Progression Map from Y1 - Y6 to take account of our context within our school curriculum. We have regularly focused on the immediate area around the school to give Geography real meaning to our children. We see the acquisition of geography knowledge as a series of concentric circles, beginning in our immediate locality and expanding to include the wider world.

We have selected topics in a purposeful way to ensure that the identified skills and knowledge are embedded in our teaching. The KS2 progression map follows on from the Infant school KS1 map so that we are building in appropriate repetition and consolidation of geographical skills.

Each topic has a knowledge organiser that acts as the key planning information for class teachers.

This includes key vocabulary, key skills and knowledge, planned retrieval and assessment indicators.

The key areas assessment of Geography are the four key skills of the NC. Teachers assess against the skills through formative assessment during the year. We build differentiation into our teaching so that children are able to demonstrate greater depth in Geography. Assessment is also used to further develop the curriculum.

We teach geography in blocks to help children build on their skills and to develop retrieval skills. It also enables our children to learn that history and geography are discrete subjects within the curriculum.

Impact

We want children to have gained enjoyment of geography; knowledge of the world around them and different environments and the ability to take practical geographical skills such as map reading to enable them to explore their world. We feel that these foundations will enable them to continue to develop their geographical skills and knowledge as they move to KS3.