

Holymead Primary School

Geography Policy

Rationale

At Holymead Primary we believe that Geography teaches the children a solid understanding of places and environments. Geography enables pupils to learn about their local area and the wider world enabling them to make comparisons and draw up conclusions. The pupils have the opportunity to draw and interpret maps, develop research skills, investigate, analyse and get creative with their geography learning. Through a growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other parts of the world and through physical geography, children gain a curiosity of the world's natural features.

Objectives

The objectives of Geography are –

- To enable children to gain a 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 be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To enable children to develop enquiry, mapping and fieldwork skills, through planned progression and to present their findings in an appropriate way.
- To enable children to know and understand environmental problems at local, regional and global levels.
- To encourage an understanding and commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means.
- To allow children to develop creative skills including using, drawing and interpreting maps.

Teaching and Learning

Geographical teaching at Holymead follows the structure of the National Curriculum and the progression of skills document. We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in Geography lessons, where children are encouraged to learn by asking and responding to questions, observing, comparing and expressing points of view. The children are given the opportunity to use a range of resources such as maps, atlases, statistics and photographs. ICT is also used where necessary to enhance children's engagement and learning. Where appropriate we try to provide fieldwork opportunities so the children are able to participate in practical geographical research and enquiry.

Organisation

- Pupils are given opportunities to experience different approaches to Geography, working individually and collaboratively.
- The emphasis in the teaching of Geography is upon broadening children's knowledge of the wider world and practical, hands on experiences should be provided wherever suitable.
- All children in Key stage 1 and 2 are provided with a topic book to record their work including the drawing of maps and diagrams.
- Classroom based resources such as atlases and maps should be easily accessible to the children.

Resources

A range of Geography resources are available on both sites. These are stored either in the resources room or, where appropriate, within classes. The school library holds a small range of books for general whole school use and in the computer suites a wide range of ICT opportunities are available on both PCs and iPads to support and enhance the children's individual research and learning. Teachers are responsible for ensuring the necessary resources are available well before needed and if they aren't, informing the Geography lead so that new resources can be ordered.

Planning

Geography is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. At Holymead Primary School we plan using the National Curriculum and the Geography progression of skills document. Teachers are responsible for planning, delivering and reviewing Geography. Plans will include specific learning objectives, expected outcomes, differentiation and will build on the children's prior learning. Planning is to provide children of all abilities the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding as they move up through the school.

Assessment

At Holymead Primary School, Teachers are responsible for the assessment of Geography for their class. Teachers should fill out the assessment sheet after every Geography topic and use the progression of skills document to identify whether the child has met the skills that fit with the topic and to what extent. Then, the teacher will record whether the child is below, working towards, expected or greater depth. This will give an overall indication of the achievements of the children and can be used to support and challenge where necessary in future Geography topics.

Monitoring and Review

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in Geography is the responsibility of the Subject Leader. Subject Leaders evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in Geography and indicate areas for further improvement through planning reviews, book scrutiny's and observations. Support and training is offered to staff where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

At Holymead Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school irrespective of ethnicity, gender, disability, faith or religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, transgender, pregnancy or age.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Reviewed: July 2021

Next Review: July 2023



Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.