

St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

Geography Policy

Introduction

Geography is an important part of the curriculum, it encourages children to think about the environment in which they live and how they can have an impact on it, both positive and negative. However, as well as being taught as a subject in its own right, geography also provides many opportunities for cross-curricular links, especially within history, maths, science and literacy.

Geography is a subject that develops children's thinking and reasoning skills, and provides opportunities for discussion and group work. It provides excellent opportunities for fieldwork and this enables children to experience things at first hand.

The scheme of work that is in place at St. Lawrence has been developed in line with the curriculum changes made in the revised National Curriculum document of 2014. This document has been created in discussion with staff from Esher High's Geography Department to ensure our pupils are thoroughly prepared for Geography at KS3.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop locational knowledge
- To acquire geographical knowledge and concepts, and develop an appreciation for the subject of geography.
- To gain an understanding of concepts through fieldwork.
- To help develop knowledge and use of geographical vocabulary.
- To develop an understanding of the relationship between people and the varying environments in which they live, e.g. home/school/ local/ international.
- To develop the children's awareness of place.
- To develop the children's sense of enjoyment and awareness of the environment around them.
- To promote cross-curricular links within the school's curriculum.
- To make the curriculum accessible and achievable for all pupils.
- To develop the children's awareness of environmental issues.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a very important aspect for the geography curriculum. Through fieldwork, children have the opportunity to experience things at first hand.

Fieldwork should include: use of grid references, use of OS maps, field sketches, environmental surveys, land-use surveys etc.

It is important that with all field visits a risk assessment is made prior to the children visiting the place. Risk assessments are made prior to all field trips.

Special Educational Needs.

All children should be encouraged to take part in geographical activities. The differentiation for children with SEN can be by outcome or by giving them enlarged resources or by allowing them to work in mixed ability groups. Although geography does rely on some literacy skills, the work that's produced does not always have to be in written form, it could be that a picture or verbal presentation may suit the needs of some children more than writing would.

Geography and Cross-curricular links.

Geography is a subject that has many cross-curricular links. Below are just a few examples:-

Maths: linked in with most of the topics, from working out the distance a place is from where we live, to working out the amounts of rainfall or water in different places e.g. mapping/graphing.

Literacy: linked through the different types of writing that may be read or created to record information or express understanding – letters, plays etc. Geography presentations will include links to speaking and listening.

Science: linked in with some of the temperature lessons and weather topics.

History: children will look at maps and charts whilst studying the history and culture of the local area.

Art: art and craft from different countries, cultures and religions.

PE: pupils look at different dance traditions around the world.

RE: link to different religions and beliefs and their predominance in different countries around the world.

IT: geography specific programmes on class computers. Use of the internet for research. Use of digital cameras on fieldwork studies.

PSHCE: many links can be made when thinking about people in different countries and how their lives are similar or different from ours.

Assessment

Assessment within Geography, as with any subject, is ongoing and is used to inform planning.

Last review date: June 2016

Next review date: June 2019