



LEARNING AND GROWING; SAFE IN GOD'S LOVE

BIRCHINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Geography Policy

Rationale

At Birchington CE Primary School we believe that Geography stimulates curiosity and imagination and we aim to build upon the child's development as a geographer by developing skills, understanding and knowledge through studying places and themes and offering them a hopeful future.

At Birchington CE Primary School, Geography is a valued part of our aspirational curriculum, as it provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. Geography explores the relationship between the earth and its people.

Pupils will be taught within the supportive Christian ethos of the school. We strive to always take into consideration our values of respect, hope, peace, forgiveness and love and keep our Christian vision in mind at all times.

Aims

- To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality, and the interaction between people and environment.
- To extend their interest, knowledge and understanding of contrasting localities in Britain, Europe and the rest of the world.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the human and physical processes which shape places.
- To appreciate similarity and difference in the world about them and to respect other people's beliefs, attitudes and values.
- To develop the geographical skills and vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions.
- To develop interest and enjoyment of geographical experiences and build confidence and understanding.
- To recognise and understand issues concerning the environment and sustainable development.

Objectives

The objectives of Geography teaching in the school are based on meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for key stages 1 and 2, and these are set out in the school's own planning document for teachers to follow. However, the curriculum also focusses on making the most of our school's unique setting to create relevant and engaging learning experience for our pupils.

The Geography curriculum of the school is broad, balanced and rich and enables the pupils to demonstrate the following geographical skills and knowledge:

- Showing their knowledge, skills and understanding in studies at a local scale.
- Expressing views on the environment of a locality and recognize how people affect the environment.
- Using this information and their own observations to help them ask and respond to questions about places and environments.
- Recognise how people seek to improve and sustain environments.
- Suggest explanations for the ways in which human activities cause changes to the environment and the different views people hold about them.
- Recognise how people try to manage environments sustainably.

Activities

At Birchington CE Primary School Geography lesson planning will provide opportunities for children be engaged with:

- Undertaking fieldwork within the school grounds, local area and places further afield.
- Comparing and contrasting land-forms, land uses, weather, seasons and ecosystems.
- The use of primary and secondary sources e.g. photos, books, media and videos, to obtain geographical information.
- Following directions using positional and directional language, also using these to direct others.
- Expressing and evaluating views on the attractive and unattractive features of the environment, e.g. tidiness, noise, building on greenbelt land.
- Naming the physical features of places, e.g. mountain, sea, beach, factory, valley.
- Using and developing language to talk about their work e.g. route, scale, tide, erosion, climate, temperate, continent.
- Developing geographical skills of: making observations and measuring, recording observations through maps, talk, and writing, taking photographs, sketches and diagrams.
- Using maps, globes, atlases and interpreting photographs.

- Appreciating the variety of responses to the same basic needs (ethnic, cultural and economic) and to imagining what it might be like to experience life in other places.

Teaching and Learning

At Birchington CE Primary School we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. We use 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 resources and data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, video and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT in Geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.

At Birchington CE Primary School children take part in role-play and discussions. Children are given opportunities to present their learning to others, and record their learning in their own way. Children learn about other places through reading stories with settings in different places and in different landscapes. They make outside visits and engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem.

At Birchington CE Primary School we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities and responding and adapting our planning and teaching to the children's individual needs. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school.

Birchington CE Primary School Approach to Geography

We plan for progression in:

- Geographical enquiry
- Locational knowledge
- Geographical skills and fieldwork
- Human and physical Geography
- Place knowledge

At Birchington CE Primary School geographical work undertaken within the school has been carefully organised to provide breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, as well as developing skills. The development throughout the two key stages builds on children's previous work.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the EYFS classes Geography is taught as an integral part of topic work covered in this setting. In the EYFS Geography is about the children having the opportunities to find out and learn about the

world they live in. The Geography side of the children's work is related to the Understanding of the World objectives set out in the EYFS curriculum.

Key Stages 1 and 2

At Key Stage 1, Geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to the children's own environment and the people who live there and developing an awareness of the wider world through cross-curricular topics. In KS1 three Geography topics are taught each year, one in each large term.

At Key Stage 2, Geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to people, places and environments at different scales in the United Kingdom and overseas and an appreciation of how places relate to each other and the wider world. In KS2 three Geography topics are taught each year, one in each large term.

Health and Safety

We strive to ensure that everyone in our inclusive school feels safe.

At Birchington CE Primary School children are taught:

- Safe practices in the field and how to achieve them.
- How to use equipment in accordance with the health and safety guidelines.
- To behave considerately and responsibly, showing respect for other people and their environment whilst on trips outside the classroom.

Teachers:

- Ensure risk assessments are completed before any field trips are agreed.
- Discuss all planned trips with the Headteacher.
- Ensure adequate supervision is organised for all field work.

Assessment

This takes place in line with the school's Monitoring and Assessment Policy.

At Birchington CE Primary School class teachers use regular and robust formative assessment to assess the children's learning in lessons, and to inform future planning. At the end of each year, class teachers make a summative assessment of each child's attainment.

Equal Opportunities

At Birchington CE Primary School we strive to ensure that everyone in our inclusive has the opportunity to grow from their unique starting point. Therefore, all children are given equal access to Geography irrespective of race, gender and creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures is promoted through the study of Geography.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor and evaluate Geography the subject leader:

- Supports teachers via explaining the progressive curriculum plan, discussing the key concepts in Geography, co-planning, team teaching, observing and giving feedback
- Monitors teachers' medium-term planning against the progression contained in the curriculum map
- Reviews resource provision
- Works co-operatively with the SENDCo
- Discusses regularly with the Headteacher and (if applicable) the Geography Governor, the progress with implementing this policy in the school.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has had an EIA and has not identified any adverse impact at this point.

Written by Geography Subject Lead: Megan Edmunds February 2025
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