

Geography Policy

Reviewed October 2023

A Policy for Geography

Teaching

History and Geography are taught across school as part of three themes, which run for a full term each over the year (see 'coverage'). Teachers plan using our core concepts, Key Stage History and the Royal Geographic society. Some 'themes' are predominantly history or geography focused, whilst some combine the two more evenly. Our curriculum ensures an even spread of history and geography across the school and within each year group. Skills progression grids for each year group are used to ensure skills are being taught at the right level and for when there are mixed year groups, to ensure the work is pitched correctly.

The rationale behind the thematic approach is to make teaching and learning as lively and interactive as possible, appealing to everyone's preferred learning style. Teachers are encouraged to provide lessons which involve learning through speaking and listening, practical hands on activities, role play, out of school visits and visitors into school. Children will learn as 'historians' and 'geographers', using the core concepts to ensure they have the key knowledge and skills necessary, which are built on as they progress through KS2. All statutory requirements on the National Curriculum are covered through this.

Strong cross-curricular links are made with English and Maths, with writing, in particular, being linked to the theme. Other foundation subjects including art, design and technology, computing and music also offer opportunities to link with the theme.

In geography, to help children retain key knowledge (such as names of continents, oceans and mountain ranges), teachers use 'Geography ninjas' at the start of each lesson. This is a series of teaching slides covering key knowledge from the National Curriculum, that teachers choose a few slides from each lesson to re-cap prior knowledge and help children to remember key facts.

Coverage

Year group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 3	Europe Battle of Britain	Egyptians	Our Valley
Year 4	Stone Age to Iron Age	Marvellous maps	Invaders and Settlers (Anglo Saxon and Vikings)
Year 5	Romans	South America	Maya Civilisation Rivers
Year 6	Ancient Greece	Extreme Earth	

Marking

Teachers will give oral and written feedback during Geography lessons and books will be marked in accordance with the whole school policy using the 'chilli sheets'. Some work will be self or peer-assessed.

Learning Walls

Each class has a learning wall devoted to Thematics, where our core concepts, vocabulary and learning from the current topic is displayed and referred to in lessons. Key questions go on the learning wall and are answered throughout the course of the theme. Work is displayed either on the learning wall or elsewhere in the classroom.

Resources

Generic history resources (books, some artefacts, posters etc) are kept in the right hand drawers in the resources room. Specific (theme resources) are kept by the year group teachers.

Assessment

Class teachers use PITA (Point in Time) assessments to assess the children's knowledge and understanding each term for history and geography separately.