

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Aldingbourne Primary School we are passionate about providing all children with the opportunities to engage in geography. This document outlines our aims in providing an exciting and engaging geography curriculum to all children which sparks curiosity and inspires fascination about the world. The curriculum expectations and entitlement for all children are outlined as well as the topics for each Key Stage. This policy also summarises teaching methods and resources used to captivate the children and allow their knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments to blossom and grow, whilst developing a deep understand of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Finally, our methods in assessing the children's knowledge and progress is explored and how we enable children to gain a coherent knowledge about the world, the interaction between physical and human process, and the formation and use of landscapes and environments.

AIMS

We aim to deliver the geography curriculum in an engaging manner, accessible to all children, of all learning styles, whilst building upon prior learning and making geography fun.

Our further aims marry that of the National Curriculum. To ensure that all children:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places - both terrestrial and marine - including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS AND ENTITLEMENT

At Aldingbourne School all children experience a broad and balanced geography curriculum that takes into account all abilities, learning styles and emotional and intellectual development. Geography is taught as part of a topic, alongside other curriculum subjects. The topics are on a 2 year rolling cycle which enables each Key Stage to build upon prior knowledge obtained in previous topics. Long term planning is accompanied by medium term planning as well as daily planning for each weekly topic session. All daily plans are designed to ignite the children's interest in obtaining greater knowledge and understanding of local, national and world wide human and physical geography.

Early Years

In Early Years:

- Children will know about the similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things
- They talk about their own environment and how environments may vary
- They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes

Our topics which cover the Early Years Foundation Stage Geography objectives are:

Autumn

Colour and Shape

Spring

The Jolly Postman and Spring

Summer

A Bugs Life

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1:

- children develop their knowledge about the World including, continents, countries and oceans
- children develop their knowledge about the United Kingdom
- children develop their knowledge about their locality and compare their locality to other contrasting areas in the world, including weather patterns as well as human and physical geography
- they learn to understand basic vocabulary and the features relating to human and physical geography
- they begin to use geographical skills and become familiar with maps, globes, aerial photographs, compass directions and atlases.

Our topics which cover the Key Stage 1 Geography National Curriculum are:

Autumn

Houses and Homes
Food Glorious Food

Spring

Extreme Explorers
Hot and Cold

Summer

By The Seaside
Get Moving

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2:

- children extend their knowledge and understanding of the world to include Europe and North and South America
- children develop their knowledge of the United Kingdom to include counties and cities
- children develop knowledge of the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features
- They enhance their locational and place knowledge
- Their awareness of different characteristics of different locations is expanded.
- They use a range of maps, atlases, globes and computer mapping to extend their geographical knowledge.

Our topics which cover the Key Stage 2 History National Curriculum are:

Lower Key Stage 2

Autumn

The Romans
Water

Spring

Communication
The Greeks

Summer

The Vikings
Prehistoric Past

Upper Key Stage 2

Autumn

The Tudors
The Victorians

Spring

Amazing Americas
Europe

Summer

Sensational Sussex
Britain Since the 1930s

TEACHING METHODS AND RESOURCES

As a school, we pride ourselves on ensuring the teaching of Geography is creative, fun, exciting and accessible to all learners. We achieve this in the following ways:

- children experience teacher in role when a character comes to visit them. For example, during the Water topic, Su Nami the storm chaser comes in to tell the children about extreme weather and natural disaster. In the Amazing Americas topic, Christopher Columbus comes in to tell the children about his journey to America

- they participate in a variety of activities that enable children of all learning styles to access the objective being covered, whilst captivating their thirst for knowledge. For example, during the topic on Houses and Homes, the year 1 & 2 children learn about the different human and physical features of the village. They walk around the village, create a village map using equipment around the school and they draw their own map of Westergate.
- children are given opportunities to have first-hand experience by visiting specific local sites of geographical interest. For example, Chichester Harbour, Aldingbourne Church and Portchester Castle.
- the use of atlases, maps and globes is used throughout their geography learning.
- in Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage, alongside classroom based activities, the children also have the opportunity to engage in child initiated geography activities in the Ezone and Whaling Area. These are often accompanied by a role play area which enables the children to fully immerse themselves into a different area in the country or world. For example, during the Extreme Explorers topic, the children have the opportunity to use the ship to re-enact Captain Cook's journey to Australia.
- the school has a variety of resources which are used when teaching the topics. These are used alongside our well stocked library, our ICT suite and West Sussex Library Loan Service to allow the children to fully immerse themselves in geography from a variety of sources.

ASSESSMENT

At Aldingbourne School, formative assessment is an integral part of our daily practise. It is used to inform planning, to facilitate differentiation and to ensure that the children have the foundations to successfully build upon their prior geographical knowledge. At the beginning of a topic, the children complete a mind map of what they already know. At the end of the topic, the mind maps are revisited and used as a summative assessment tool to highlight progress and understanding of the geographical knowledge taught. At the end of the academic year, based on formative assessment, topic work and mind maps, a judgement is given by the class teacher which states if a child is working towards, within or met the geography curriculum. This is reported to parents in the child's end of year report.