



St. Laurence C.E. Primary School Geography Policy

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of the Geography taught and learnt at St. Laurence's C. E. primary school. It reflects the school's values and ethos. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff.

INTENT

At St Laurence's Primary school children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding of the world, as well as their place in it. The Geography curriculum enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive and transferable to other curriculum areas. We seek to inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We also aim to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Geography provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. It allows pupils to explore the relationship between the Earth and its people. Geography encourages children to learn through experience particularly fieldwork and practical activities.

Oracy is at the heart of what we do. Our aim is to promote all forms of communication within school to encourage children to interact and learn through talk confidently using the vocabulary embedded throughout each year group. Oracy is embedded across the curriculum and used to unlock new learning and challenge thinking. At St. Laurence we provide our pupils with the opportunity to articulate their ideas and learn from each other as they explore new topics. We aim to provide pupils with skills required to become confident speakers. (Please refer to teaching and learning policy).

Our geography curriculum is rooted in the values of wisdom, trust and creativity, which align closely with the aims of the National Curriculum. Through the development of wisdom, pupils gain a deep and connected understanding of the world, enabling them to interpret geographical information, recognise patterns, and make informed judgements about environmental and human issues. Trust is fostered as pupils learn to work collaboratively, respect diverse perspectives and cultures, and engage responsibly with global challenges, reflecting the National Curriculum's emphasis on developing informed and responsible citizens. Creativity is encouraged through enquiry-based

learning, fieldwork, and the exploration of innovative solutions to real-world problems, allowing pupils to think critically and imaginatively about the future of our planet. Together, these values shape a geography curriculum that not only meets statutory requirements but also inspires curiosity, resilience, and a strong moral purpose in understanding and caring for the world.

Implementation

Early Years

In the early years, pupils explore geographical themes and content throughout the Understanding of the World strand of the EYFS curriculum. This involves guiding the children to develop a sense of their physical world, as well as their community, alongside opportunities to explore, observe, and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. We teach Geography as an integral part of the responsive topic work covered during the year. We relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals / Characteristics of Effective Learning, which underpin the curriculum planning. Geography makes a significant contribution to the Early Learning Goals of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world through a wide range of child initiated and adult led activities.

Key Stage One and Two

Children will focus on a wide range of Geographical knowledge and skills.

Both key stages will focus on Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human and Physical Geography and Geographical skills and Field Work. To achieve the objectives of the Geographical Curriculum, the subject will be taught as an on-going unit, or taught as an isolated topic delving deeply into a rich geography focus or on occasions teaching Geography as it appears naturally with another subject where both lend themselves beautifully to enhance the children's learning.

Through their work in Geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. As pupils progress, they deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and use subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical Geography, with accuracy and confidence

Geography is taught through a wide range of rich environments: our school environment, Ludlow Town, River Teme, Mortimer Forest, the Shropshire Hills etc. A variety of approaches will be used to ensure continuity and progression. Lessons will include a blend of whole class teaching, group and individual work. Teachers have

identified within the planning the key knowledge for each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics (substantive concepts) throughout each year group across the school. Each unit of work must have a title page, which has the disciplinary concepts displayed along with the substantive vocabulary list. There should be space for pupils to define the vocabulary where appropriate.

Each unit of work must end with an assessment opportunity, which should assess against the learning objectives of the national curriculum. Regular opportunities for retrieval should be planned (see teaching and learning policy for further information). At the beginning of each topic, children can convey what they know already as well as what they would like to find out. This informs the programme of study and ensures that lessons are relevant and take account of children's different starting points.

Consideration is given to how greater depth will be taught, learnt and demonstrated within each lesson, as well as how learners will be supported in line with the school's commitment to inclusion. Cross- curricular outcomes in Geography are specifically planned for, where appropriate.

All children will have equal access to the Geographical Curriculum and reference will be made to ensure that health and safety, equal opportunity and special needs policies are met.

Outcomes in Geography books, learning journals, wall displays evidence a broad and balanced Geography curriculum. As children progress through school, they acquire key knowledge and skills and develop a sound knowledge and understanding of both human and physical Geography. Children appreciate their local area and its place within the wider geographical context. Children gain an appreciation of life in different societies and develop a sense of other cultures and how nations rely upon each other. At the end of each Year Group, children achieve age related expectations in Geography and retain the knowledge and skills learnt from each unit of work

Substantive Concepts

These are the concepts that are built upon year on year. They are strands of learning that run through the curriculum.

Place

Space

Scale

Interdependence

Physical and human processes

Environmental impact

Cultural Awareness

Assessment

Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning cycle. At St Laurence's, we use summative and formative assessment to determine children's understanding of key Geographical knowledge and skills. Assessment is supported by use of the following strategies: Observing children at work, individually, in pairs, in a group and in class during whole class teaching. Using differentiated, open-ended questions that require children to explain their understanding. Provide effective feedback, including interactive marking, where appropriate, to engage children with their learning and to provide opportunities for self-assessment, consolidation, depth and target setting.

Book moderation and monitoring of outcomes of work, to evaluate the range and balance of work and to ensure that tasks meet the needs of different learners, with the acquisition of pre-identified key knowledge of each topic being evidenced through the outcomes. Use of specific and measurable learning objectives for each lesson which children and teacher's review against the agreed success criteria. Each child's attainment and progress in Geography is formally reported to parents at the end of the school year in the end of year report.

In the Early years children are assessed within 'Arc Pathways' and at the end of the Foundation years against the Early Learning Goals.

Cross- curricular links

Whilst learning about geography children will need to access knowledge and skills from other curriculum areas. For example, they may need to draw upon data handling and computing knowledge; scientific skills or even speaking and listening, to debate environmental issues: all in the application of their learning. All of these links need to be relevant and purposeful and emphasise that we cannot learn about geography in isolation but also that whilst they are studying this subject the principles and disciplines of Geography are always central to what is being taught.

SMSC Development

Spiritual education in Geography inspires awe and wonder at the natural world and its features such as rivers, mountains, hills, volcanoes, and the effect of weather and climate. Moral education in Geography provides opportunities for children to research topics such as deforestation and consider the extent to which these issues arise as a result of human exploitation of the natural world. Social education in Geography involves the study of real people in different societies and allows children the opportunity to make comparisons with their own locality. Cultural education provides opportunities for children to develop a sense of other cultures, their similarities and differences, and to recognise how nations rely upon each other.

Diversity

Through Geography, children learn about diversity of national, regional, religious and ethical identities: teachers encourage pupils to think about issues, problems and events and to use their imagination to consider other people's experiences. Resources Geography resources are stored centrally between Year 3 and Year 4 classrooms. The shelving is clearly organised and has an extensive supply of up to date Geography topic books, thermometers, rain gauges, compasses, and a range of up to date globes to suit the requirements of all pupils. Children can also use ICT resources to support their learning.

Role of the subject leader

The Subject Leader's responsibilities are:

- To ensure a high profile of the subject.
- To attend regular CPD.
- To ensure a full range of relevant and effective resources are available to enhance and support learning.
- To ensure progression of the key knowledge and skills identified within each unit and ensure that these are integral to the programme of study and secure at the end of each age phase.
- To monitor books and ensure key knowledge is evidenced in outcomes.
- To analyse assessment data.
- To annually observe Geography lessons.
- To annually hold pupil interviews.
- To monitor planning and oversee the teaching of Geography.
- To lead further improvement in and development of the subject as informed by effective subject overview.
- To ensure that the Geography curriculum has a positive effect on all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or have low attainment.
- To ensure that approaches are informed by and in line with current identified good practice and pedagogy.

Equal Opportunities

At St Laurence's we are committed to providing a teaching environment which ensures all children are provided with the same learning opportunities regardless of social class, gender, culture, race, special educational need or disability. Teachers use a range of strategies to ensure inclusion. Support for specific individuals is well considered and planned for, with consideration given to how greater depth and further challenge can be implemented.

Gifted and talented / more able Pupils.

At St. Laurence's each teacher will liaise with the gifted and talented co-ordinator to ensure individual children's needs are met and that appropriate targets are set and reviewed regularly. Class teachers are mindful of the extra needs of gifted and talented children, different questioning techniques and activities to allow further progression and challenge.

Inclusion

All pupils are entitled to access the Geography curriculum at a level appropriate to their needs. To ensure inclusion, teachers use a range of strategies. Independent tasks, as well as teaching, are well adapted, to ensure full accessibility, as well as to provide appropriate support and challenge to different groups of learners. The school makes full use of additional adults who are deployed effectively to ensure that identified children can make progress in each curriculum area, according to their full potential.

Role of the Governors

The subject leader will ensure that the Governing Body is kept up to date with any actions and initiatives which are relevant to the subject. Reviews of action plans are sent to the Governors each year and the Governors meet with subject leads and provide link governor reports to the governing body annually.

Health and Safety

The curriculum will be delivered in a safe and healthy manner and every effort will be taken to identify risks associated with a curriculum subject/ activity (such as field trips) and the appropriate control measures will be implemented. Pupils will be educated about health and safety issues as and when the opportunity arises throughout the course of normal teaching. Risk assessments will be submitted for all educational off site visits.