

# **Geography Policy**

## **Introduction**

This policy has been written as a response to changes in the teaching of Geography through the New Primary Curriculum 2014.

It is a statement of the aims, principles and the teaching and learning of History at John T. Rice Infant School. At John T. Rice Infant School we aim to develop geographical knowledge, skills and understanding relating to the environment of the children and the people who live there. Geography should also develop an awareness of the wider world. We also aim to provide hands-on experience wherever possible and to use drama/role-play to aid understanding.

At John T. Rice Infant School we have high expectations of children's work and celebrate children's achievements, fostering self-esteem and confidence.

## **Aims**

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- 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.

## **Objectives**

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

Pupils should be taught to:

### **Locational knowledge**

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

### **Place knowledge**

- understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

### **Human and physical geography**

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles
- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:
- key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather
- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

### **Geographical skills and fieldwork**

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage
- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map
- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

## **Teaching & Learning**

### **Our Curriculum**

At John T. Rice we follow the Learning Challenge Curriculum. The ethos that underpins the Learning Challenge approach requires teachers to check on what children already know and then inspire them through an initial key question and subsequent questions to investigate. Each Learning Challenge has a 'wow' to begin each half term and its own reflection at the close. By using these there is a more complete level of challenge for the pupils.

## **Planning**

Our long term planning is based on a two year planning cycle with a different Learning Challenge each half term and a planned in 'wow'.

Key Stage teams meet half termly to complete the medium term planning. To ensure that the Learning Challenges provide adequate coverage and progression through Years 1 & 2, the school will highlight the intended objectives on the National Curriculum document.

Class teachers have responsibility for creating their own weekly planning based on the needs of the children using assessment for learning.

## **Non-negotiables**

Non-negotiables are a clear map of the basic skills to be taught in each year group. These are essential for children to unlock their learning and make progress. Opportunities to teach these skills are interwoven through the Geography curriculum.

## **Monitoring & Assessment**

Children are informally assessed during lessons, through questioning and performance which will be used formatively to inform planning. Summative assessments are used at the end of each half-term through Classroom Monitor, to show progression throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

Work scrutinies will be completed half termly (with either the SLT or teaching staff) to monitor the quality and consistency of work in Geography. Termly planning scrutinies will take place to monitor coverage and progression of Geography across the key stage. Due to the cross curricular nature of the Learning Challenge approach, Teaching & Learning observations will be conducted termly and used to monitor a range of subject areas.

## **Speaking & Listening**

Speaking and listening activities should be encouraged within Geography whenever possible. These should be linked to the learning objectives for Spoken Language taken from the National Curriculum for English.

## **Equal Opportunities**

At John T. Rice Infant School we are aware of the need for equality of access for all children. Our staff believe strongly in creating equal opportunities for all children and work to this aim. We introduce and build upon the children's awareness of equal opportunities including the development of respect and understanding of multi-cultural, gender and S.E.N. issues.

## **E-Safety**

Whilst using a wide range of technologies to teach Geography, we need to ensure children are safeguarded. E-Safety encompasses Internet technologies and electronic communications such as mobile phones as well as collaboration tools and personal publishing. It highlights the need to educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience.

E-Safety depends on effective practice at a number of levels:

- Responsible ICT use by all staff and pupils; encouraged by education.
- Sound implementation of e-safety policy in both administration and curriculum, including secure school network design and use.

This policy was agreed by staff and the Governing Body. This policy was reviewed in Autumn 2017 will be reviewed again in Autumn 2018.