

Whitwick St. John the Baptist C.E. Primary School

Geography Policy



Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat

This vision is based on the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13 1-23

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'



Agreed by Staff: January 2022
Agreed by Governors: March 2022

Signed (Chair): _____ Date: _____

Geography Policy

1.0 Whole School Vision, Ethos & Aims

Our Whole School Vision

Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat

This vision is based on the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13 1-23

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

The parable tells us that the good soil represents the word of God. As a school, we provide the good soil, the water, the sun and the space that seeds need in order to grow and bloom.

At Whitwick St John the Baptist our approach to all elements of school life, including Geography, are underpinned by our vision.

Our Whole School Curriculum Drivers

Community and Culture	Communication	Confident Individuals	Ambition & Opportunities
Individuals who take pride in their own community and respect and embrace the culture of others.	Individuals who can communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings in a wide range of different forms.	Individuals who are confident in taking the next-step in their education.	Individuals who embrace opportunities and have ambitions for the future

2.0 Our School's Vision for Geography

At Whitwick St John the Baptist, Geography enables pupils to understand the local and wider environment to find their way in the world. Our pupils study people and places and the interaction between them and develop an awareness that the past has lessons for the present and future. Our Geography curriculum inspires children to look closely at the world around them and develop the skills necessary to be able to interpret what they see.

3.0 Rationale

Geography can inspire curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Geography should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives

4.0 Aims

The teaching of geography should allow children to:

- To enable pupils to recognise that Geography is the study of people and places and the interaction between them and develop an awareness that the past has lessons for the present and future,
- To build and use a wide range of geographical vocabulary and relate this to English Language as a whole,
- To integrate fieldwork as an important part of the enquiry process,

- To help pupils deal, openly and sensitively, with issues of environmental change and sustainable development,
- To use a variety of resources, including ICT to develop teaching and learning.

5.0 Programme of Study

Years 1 to 6

For Years 1 to 6 we follow the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Geography.

The Geography Attainment Target is divided into four areas:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage children develop their geographical understanding through Understanding of the World. Children develop knowledge, skills and understanding through play-based learning, which forms a basis for later work in geography.

6.0 How geography is taught

Throughout the school the children will be given a wide range of experiences, many of which are ongoing and developmental, appropriate to their levels of development.

In Geography, teaching should ensure that geographical enquiry skills are used when developing knowledge and understanding of places, patterns, processes, environmental change and sustainable development.

Cross Curricular opportunities

Geography is a subject that particularly lends itself to other areas of the curriculum. Planning these cross curricular contacts are seen as a vital part of the teacher's work. English skills, including spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well Maths strategies and applications should be embedded and integrated into the geography curriculum.

7.0 Assessment

Assessment of the children's work, skills and knowledge will be made using:

- written work
- questions and answers
- whole class and group discussions
- discussion between individual children and the teacher
- observation
- comparison with relevant age related descriptors
- comparison with key stage programmes of study
- comparison during whole school themed weeks

8.0 Roles and responsibilities

For full roles and responsibilities of the curriculum, please reference the curriculum policy.

Curriculum Leader

The Curriculum Leader maintains an overview of the curriculum provided by the school for Geography and works in partnership with the Headteacher on a range of strategic planning, monitoring and evaluating tasks, from the full range of evidence provided by other staff.

Subject Leader

The Geography lead ensures that all the aspects of the National Curriculum content are covered within the Curriculum and Progression Maps. The maps feed into the wider curriculum medium-term plans written by class teachers. The subject leader will review the Curriculum and Progression Maps and medium-term plans to ensure that children's learning becomes increasingly more challenging and progressive as they move through the year groups. They maintain an overview of standards within their subject.

The subject leader also produces annual action plans for their subjects; supports the writing of medium-term plans of class teachers; analyses the standards within the subject; provides or signposts staff towards training and resources and engages in developmental work/ research projects with external colleagues.

The subject leader monitors and evaluates the standards achieved by children. They evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in their subject through a range of monitoring activities which include: lesson views, learning walks, data analysis, book views and pupil interviews.

The subject leader will take the opportunity to develop their leaderships skills within the subject through a range of opportunities which include external courses, attendance of local school networks and In-service training.

Class Teacher

Class teachers have the final responsibility to produce class specific, medium-term planning for their children. They also have responsibility for the standards their children achieve, the progress they make and the evidence of this learning. Class teachers should ask for guidance from subject leaders when appropriate and are required to ensure all provision promotes an 'Inspirational Learning Community'.

9.0 Parents

We recognise that parents make a significant difference to children's progress and encourage this partnership. We aim to strengthen this link through:

- Providing half termly topic maps that involve parents of the content being taught that half term,

- Provide feedback in the 'End of Year School Report',
- Signpost external opportunities to parents,
- Provide useful links on the website.

10.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

The teaching of geography takes into account both the Special Education Needs and Disabilities Policy and Equality Policy. We endeavour to make every effort to achieve maximum inclusion of all pupils whilst meeting pupils' individual needs.

11.0 Health and Safety

As with all activities in school, teachers need to ensure that teaching in geography promotes health, safety and the well-being of children in line with the Health & Safety policy.