



# **Geography Policy**

## **Aims:**

The purpose of teaching geography at Monksdown Primary School is to:

- Allow children to develop a sense of identity through learning about their local environment, the UK and its relationships with other countries
- Pupils will develop geographical knowledge and understanding of globally significant places including their defining physical and human characteristics
- Help children make sense of their own surroundings and make comparisons to the wider worlds
- Introduce children to geographical enquiry allowing pupils to ask questions which will lead to the development of their geographical skills and deepen their understanding
- Create an appreciation for the natural world and develop a concern for the environment and current issues

## **Intent:**

Our Geography curriculum is designed to develop children's curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Children investigate a range of places – both in Britain and abroad – to help develop their knowledge and understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area of Norris Green and Liverpool so that they can develop of real sense of who they are, their heritage and what makes our local area unique and special. We are also developing the children's ability to apply geographical skills to enable them to confidently communicate their findings and geographical understanding to a range of audiences. Through high quality teaching, we develop the following essential characteristics of geographers:

- An excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like, both in Britain and the wider world.

- An extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Fluency in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills, as well as effective presentation techniques.
- The ability to reach clear conclusions and explain their findings.
- Excellent fieldwork skills.
- The ability to express well-balanced opinions, with good knowledge and understanding about current issues in society and the environment.
- A genuine interest in the subject and a real sense of curiosity about the world and the people who live here.

## **Implementation:**

Geography is a National Curriculum foundation subject. The programme of study outlined in the long-term planning make up the content of the school's Geography curriculum. All children are entitled access to the programmes of study at a level appropriate to the needs of the individual child. The knowledge, skills and understanding in the programmes of study identify the aspects of geography in which children make progress:

- Geographical enquiry and skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of places.
- Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes.
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development.

Geography is taught at Monksdown Primary using a topic-based approach supported by the Lancashire schemes of work. Skills and knowledge are taught and cross curricular opportunities are encouraged. We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based practical activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of resources, such as globes, maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, and aerial photographs. The pupils use ICT in geography lessons to access mapping software; interpret data in the form of graphs or tables and to research geographical environments.

Furthermore, opportunities to secure children's contextual understanding and promoting the subject of geography should be exploited on the many trips that children take out of school.

### **Resources:**

The geography cupboard is located upstairs between the Year 4 classrooms where a variety of different resources are kept to help with each unit. Children will have the opportunity to use; atlases, globes, maps, visual media including photographs and aerial photographs, GIS (including digimaps) compasses, measuring equipment, cameras, information books, iPads and various online programs. In addition, loans of books and artefacts can be obtained from the library lending service. The internet is a valuable source of information with website such as the BBC and the Geography Association providing lesson ideas, subject knowledge and interactive activities.

### **After School Provision:**

At Monksdown we currently offer a range of different after school clubs throughout the year with links to Geography. These include, but are not limited to; Eco-council and the gardening club.

### **Assessment:**

The Curriculum Leader will undertake book monitoring, learning walks and cross phase moderation to monitor the teaching and learning of geography on a regular basis.

Geography Key Skills statements are used for assessment at the completion of each Geography unit. The Lancashire scheme of work clearly identifies progression through the year groups ensuring geographical skills are developed and taught effectively. Through evaluations at the end of topics taught teachers identify children who are working at, below or above the expected level. This is given to the subject lead to evaluate and review progression and attainment within year groups.

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:**

All teaching and non-teaching staff at Monksdown Primary School are responsible for ensuring that every pupil, regardless of gender, race, culture, background and ability have the opportunity to experience education at an appropriate and challenging level. To ensure that pupils experience high standards of success, Geography needs to be taught with regards to pupil's abilities to ensure progress. We aim to identify and minimise barriers to learning and take account of gender, ability, disability, social, cultural, and linguistic background when planning lessons. Provision is made to enable all pupils to participate effectively in curriculum and assessment activities. A wide range of gender specific and cultural images that challenge stereotypes will be used. This policy ensures that certain aspects of Geography are not seen as more appropriate for boys or girls. Individual teachers consider carefully the groupings they have. These might depend on the experiences the children have had in their home environments.

All children will be given access to Geography irrespective of race, gender, level of ability, religion, social background and culture. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of Geography. Appropriate differentiation will allow all children to achieve and fulfil their potential in this subject.

We teach Geography to all pupils, whatever their ability, in accordance with the information set out in our school curriculum overviews, providing a broad and balanced curriculum to all. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children of all capabilities, setting and reviewing appropriate targets.

### **Monitoring and Review:**

The Headteacher and Curriculum Leader will review the effectiveness of this policy. They will report on the effectiveness to the Governing Body on a regular basis and will, if necessary, make recommendations for further improvement.

## **Subject Leadership**

The Subject Lead will:

- Ensure that the subject is regularly discussed, reviewed and monitored within the school.
- Keep resources up-to-date and relevant, particularly in preparation for each unit of work.
- Promote good subject practice throughout the school through evaluating units with staff.
- Set a good example of subject practice.
- Support long term planning for the whole school.
- Inspire learning
- Provide support and guidance to colleagues on teaching the units of work
- Purchase and organise resources
- Maintain equipment and make them easily accessible for teachers
- Attend courses for CPD and report back to staff

## **Policy Review**

This policy was last reviewed: Summer 2021

Date of next review: Summer 2022