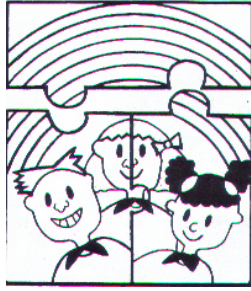


Geography Policy



Emersons Green Primary School Geography Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. 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. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem-solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of Human Geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

1.2 The aims of Geography are:

- to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- to increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country;
- to allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- to enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- to encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- to develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

2 Teaching and learning style

2.1 At Emersons Green 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 research activities where appropriate. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use IT in Geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning. Children take part in role-play and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem or use of the Internet to investigate a current issue.

Geography Policy

- 2.2** We recognise the fact that there are children of widely different geographical abilities in all classes and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:
- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
 - setting tasks of increasing difficulty, some children not completing all tasks;
 - grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;
 - providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the child;
 - using classroom assistants to support the work of individual children or groups of children.

3 Geography curriculum planning

3.1 We use the LCP Scheme of Work for Geography (which is matched to the QCA scheme) as the basis for our curriculum planning. We have adapted the scheme to the local circumstances of our school, i.e. we make use of the local environment in our fieldwork and we also choose a locality where the human activities and physical features provide a contrast to those that predominate in our own immediate area.

3.2 Our curriculum planning is in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). Our long-term plan maps the geography topics studied in each term during each key stage. The Geography Subject Leader works this out in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group. In some cases we combine the geographical study with work in other subject areas, especially at Key Stage 1. At other times we arrange for the children to carry out a geographical study independently.

3.3.1 Our medium-term plans follow the LCP scheme of work and give details of each unit of work for each term. The Geography Subject Leader reviews these plans on a regular basis.

3.4 Each class teacher creates a plan for each lesson. These daily lesson plans list specific learning objectives. The class teacher keeps these individual plans, and often discusses them with the Geography Subject Leader on an informal basis.

3.5 We plan the topics in Geography so that they build upon prior learning. Children of all abilities have the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and, through planned progression built into the scheme of work, we offer them an increasing challenge as they move up the school.

4 Foundation Stage

4.1 We teach Geography in Reception Class as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the Reception Class is part of the Foundation Stage, we relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Geography makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world through activities such as collecting postcards from different places, singing songs from around the world, or investigating what makes a 'good' playground.

5 The contribution of geography to teaching in other curriculum areas

5.1 English

Geography makes a significant contribution to the teaching of English in our school because it actively promotes the skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening. We ensure that some of the texts that we use in the Literacy Hour are geographical in nature. For example, in Key Stage 1 we use the Katie Morag books by Mairi Hedderwick to develop children's knowledge and understanding in the QCA unit, 'An Island Home'. At Key Stage 2 we organise debates on environmental issues because we believe that these develop speaking and listening skills. Reports, letters and recording information will all develop children's writing ability. We also use geographical issues, such as the environment, as a way of developing the children's writing ability by asking them to record information and write reports and letters.

5.2 Mathematics

Geography in our school contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. We teach the children how to represent objects with maps. The children study space, scale and distance and they learn how to use four- and six-figure grid references. They also use graphs to explore, analyse and illustrate a variety of data.

5.3 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

We make provision for the children to use the computer in Geography lessons where appropriate. We incorporate ICT in our Geography curriculum planning at Key Stage 2, and we use it at Key Stage 1 when appropriate. Children use ICT in geography to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work. They research information through the Internet and Encarta. We arrange for the children to communicate with other pupils in other schools and countries by using e-mail. We also offer children the opportunity to use the digital camera to record and use photographic images.

5.4 Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship. Firstly, the subject matter lends itself to raising matters of citizenship and social welfare. For example, children study the way people re-cycle material and how environments are changed for better or for worse. Secondly, the nature of the subject means that children have the opportunity to take part in debates and discussions. We allow them to organise events on matters of concern to them, such as helping the poor or homeless. Thus Geography in our school promotes the concept of positive citizenship.

5.5 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

We offer children in our school many opportunities to examine the fundamental questions in life through the medium of Geography. For example, their work on the changing landscape and environmental issues leads children to ask questions about the evolution of the planet. We encourage the children to reflect on the impact of mankind on our world and we introduce the concept of managing the environment in relation to sustainable development. Through teaching about contrasting localities, we enable the children to learn about inequality and injustice in the world. We help children to develop their knowledge and understanding of different cultures so that they learn to avoid stereotyping other people and acquire a positive attitude towards others. We help contribute to the children's social development by teaching them about how society works to resolve difficult issues of economic development. Geography contributes to the children's appreciation of what is right and wrong by raising many moral questions during the programme of study.

5.6 International Education

Geography Policy

Geography lends itself to the development of International Education and as such the school has made a commitment to promoting this.

6 Teaching Geography to children with special needs

6.1 At Emersons Green Primary School we teach Geography to all children, whatever their ability. Geography forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our Geography teaching we provide learning opportunities that match the needs of children with learning difficulties and we take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

7 Assessment and recording

7.1 We assess the children's work in geography by making informal judgements as we observe the children during lessons. Once the children complete a piece of work, we mark and comment as necessary. Summative assessments are reported to parents annually.

7.2 The Geography Subject Leader keeps samples of the children's work in a portfolio.

8 Resources

8.1 We are gathering together sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all the Geography units in the LCP Scheme of Work. We keep these resources in a central store. We also keep a collection of Geography equipment in a central store or in classrooms as appropriate. In the library we have a growing number of Geography topic books and a range of educational software to support the children's individual research.

9 Fieldwork

9.1 Fieldwork is integral to good Geography teaching and we include as many opportunities as we can to involve children in practical geographical research and enquiry.

9.2 At Key Stage 1 we let all the children carry out an investigation into the local environment and we give them opportunities to observe and record information around the school site. At Key Stage 2 the children do a study of the local area. We also offer them the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Morfa Bay.

10 Monitoring and review

10.1 The Geography Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in Geography. The Geography Subject Leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Geography, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The Geography Subject Leader gives the Headteacher an annual report in which she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement. Time is allocated to review samples of work and observe Geography teaching in line with the School Improvement Plan..

Geography Policy

Date written: March 06

Approved by Governors

Review Date: Apr 2007