



Broomhaugh Church of England First School

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

Inspired by Jesus, we make a difference in God's world by being 'the best that we can be'.

This policy reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum (England) as updated through 2024 and will be reviewed every two years. The next review date is September 2028. Any statutory changes or DfE/Ofsted guidance will be considered and the policy amended accordingly. The policy also takes account of the 2025 Ofsted inspection framework priorities (Curriculum, Teaching, Inclusion, Safeguarding and Leadership).

Intent

Geography at Broomhaugh CofE First School contributes directly to our school vision: 'Inspired by Jesus, we make a difference in God's world by being the best that we can be.' Geography lessons will explicitly explore stewardship, respect for creation, community links and ethical decision-making; opportunities for spiritual development and reflection will be planned into fieldwork and local studies.

In Geography our provision is designed to promote the exploration of the connections between people and places. We aim for our pupils to explore both natural and cultural similarities and differences and to become confident 'Geographers'.

We offer a structure and sequence of lessons to help teachers ensure they have covered the skills required to meet the aims of the national curriculum. The content allows for a broader, deeper understanding of the four areas of geography identified in the curriculum. It will develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places and understanding of the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, along with how they bring about variation and change over time.

We intend to develop children's curiosity and a fascination of the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. The curriculum is organised to offer a range of opportunities for investigating places around the world as well as physical and human processes.

We place a great emphasis on practical Geography and on making links with our locality and region wherever possible. Fieldwork is a driving factor in our planning. Our lessons are intended to improve children's geographical vocabulary, map skills and geographical facts and provide opportunities for consolidation, challenge and variety to ensure interest and good progress in the subject.

Implementation

When designing our curriculum we have sought to focus on 3 main areas:

Knowledge: What do we want our children to learn and remember? We do not want to overwhelm our children with too much information therefore sequencing the knowledge to be learned is key.

Concepts: We have focussed on the seven geographical concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change which are the key to understanding the places that make up our world. From here, we have planned each unit of work considering the following key concepts: Location and Place, Cause and Effect, Change, Planning and Decision Making, Systems and Processes and Inequality.

Skills: How will we teach our children to become effective Geographers? What skills do they need to learn to understand the content?

EYFS

In EYFS, geography forms part of Understanding the World and Communication & Language. Practitioners will use Development Matters statements and the school's EYFS assessment framework to record early geographical vocabulary, sense of place and observational fieldwork (e.g. seasonal changes, mapping play). Progress checks and the EYFS profile will reference geography-related outcomes as appropriate.

KS1

In KS1, the Geography Curriculum is taught across year 1 and 2. Within the key stage children begin to use maps and recognise physical and human features to do with the local area and building to using maps to explore the continents and oceans of the world. The children will begin to compare where they live to places outside of Europe and ask and answer geographical questions.

KS2

In KS2, map skills are developed further using digital maps, more keys and symbols and children begin to use more fieldwork skills. Through revisiting and consolidating skills, the children build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge as outlined in our progression of skills document. All children expand on their skills in local knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography, geographical skills and fieldwork. Across both key stages, children have a range of opportunities to experience geography through practical engaging tasks beyond the classroom. End of unit assessments and progression trackers give our non-specialist staff who lead geography confidence in the progression of skills and knowledge and that outcomes have been met. Key words are also provided to be used by children to deepen their geographical knowledge.

Impact

We believe that the impact of using our personalised Geography curriculum and progressive units will ensure that geography learning is loved by teachers and children across our school. Teachers have higher expectations and more quality evidence can be presented in books. All children will use geographical vocabulary accurately and understand the different strands of geography, with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Children will begin to make relevant links from geography to other curriculum subjects, such as history and science. They will improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them, and their impact on the world. All children will realise that they have choices to make in the world, developing a positive commitment to the environment and the future of the planet. Children will become competent in collecting, analysing and communicating a range of data gathered. They will be able to interpret a range of sources of geographical information and they will communicate geographical information in a variety of ways. All children in the school will be able to speak confidently about their geography learning, skills and knowledge.

Purpose of study

A high-quality geography education 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. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge provides the tools and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time. Through courageous advocacy, children should explore links within their diocese as well as with the world church and global partners.

Aims

The National Curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of places, seas and oceans, including their defining physical and human characteristics
- 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

They must also be 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 and writing at length.

Subject content

The subject leader will maintain a Geography curriculum map showing coverage and sequence across EYFS–Year 4. Each unit will include intended learning outcomes, vocabulary lists, links to prior learning and cross-curricular links (RE, Science, History). This map will be published for staff and governors and reviewed annually as part of the School Improvement Plan.

Key stage 1

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:

Location 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 (e.g. 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.

Key stage 2

Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical tools and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Pupils should be taught to:

Location knowledge

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities

- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place knowledge

- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America Human and physical geography
- describe and understand key aspects of:
 - physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
 - human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Teaching Methods

A variety of methods are to be employed in the teaching of Geography, which will afford pupils access to a range of resources and ensure that they are encouraged to develop their potential to the full. Teachers are expected to utilise many differing techniques and approaches to ensure that the Geography Curriculum is constantly made interesting, interactive and alive.

These may include:

- Knowledge given by the teacher
- Use of the local environments for fieldwork.
- Creative activities - building models, showing routes.
- Individual and group enquiry, especially where resources are limited.
- Use of video and films.
- Using outside speakers.
- Visits to places of relevance to the topic, e.g. farm, beach etc.
- Use of IT – simulations, satellite images.
- Use of relevant books, pamphlets, leaflets, maps, postcards, atlases etc.
- Role play and drama to create empathy.
- Photographs and satellite images.
- Links with local experts in the field
- Use of debate to discuss relevant issues.
- Sharing BBC Science and Environment pages as well as news sources to promote discussion, debate and understanding of the wider world.

Fieldwork

It is always advisable to base learning on first-hand experience and teachers are encouraged to focus attention on the opportunities available in the local area, within the school grounds and whilst out on educational trips. This will necessitate the exploration of the world beyond the classroom. All

teachers are encouraged to organise visits that will enable pupils to extend their knowledge of the world around them e.g. the seaside and local walkways and woods.

All off-site fieldwork will follow the school's Educational Visits and Off-Site Activities policy and the DfE guidance 'Health and safety on educational visits'. A written risk assessment must be completed and signed by the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) prior to any trip; parent/carer consent, first aid cover, pupil medical information and appropriate adult:pupil ratios must be recorded. On-site fieldwork in the school grounds will be planned with dynamic risk assessments and recorded in class planning.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers allow for assessment to be made during the course of a Geography lesson using discussion, question and answer techniques and in encouraging pupils to communicate findings to others. Teachers will use the online tracker to record pupil progress against unit-specific learning intentions and the school's progression of skills document. Assessment will identify Emerging/Expected/Greater Depth for each pupil at the end of a unit, with examples stored in the online portfolio. Outcomes will inform mid-year curriculum adjustments and targeted catch-up or extension interventions. Moderation between year groups and with local cluster schools will happen at least annually.

The Subject Leader will develop an online portfolio of work. This will provide exemplars of work which reflect expected, above expected and below expected levels of attainment for Geography. They will be used to assist teachers in moderating future work and could be used to set targets for pupil development.

The Link Governor for geography will visit at least two-yearly and support this work.

Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policy

All children regardless of their race, sex, religion, religious belief or ability will be given equal opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in geography.

It is recognised that all pupils must be given opportunities to show what they know and can do. Recognising the different abilities within a class means that teachers must plan at a class, group and individual level.

This involves:

- Using a range of teaching styles which match the experience of all pupils within the class and begin to cater for different attainment levels.
- Matching tasks to pupils' needs.
- Various strategies are employed to allow pupils to achieve.
 - Common tasks, which will expect different outcomes.
 - Stepped tasks, with a common starting point but which aim to extend and challenge.
 - Grouping, in which pupils work on a task designed for that group.
 - Different resources, same task, which modifies the amount of information given to some pupils.
 - Independent learning - finding answers from a range of resources.

Geography lessons will include reasonable adjustments and additional strategies for pupils with SEND and EAL. Examples include:

- pre-teaching of key vocabulary, scaffolded recording frames,
- dual coding (images and text),
- adapted fieldwork risk assessments and one-to-one adult support for off-site visits.

SEND Support Plans and EHCP objectives will be referenced in planning where relevant.

Specific adaptations are listed further in the, 'Adapting and Enabling the Geography Curriculum' document.

