



Westminster

Primary

School

Nurturing Minds...

Inspiring Excellence

Geography Policy



Reviewed: March 2021

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Mission statement:

We provide a stimulating, challenging curriculum within a safe and happy environment. Through a positive and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential.

Rationale:

Westminster Primary School will provide a high-quality Geography education whereby it will inspire the children to develop a sense of curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. This will contribute to the cultural, social, spiritual and moral life of children as they acquire knowledge of a range of different cultures and traditions. The teaching will provide children a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world we live in. Also, it will give them the opportunity to explore how the world has evolved and deepen their understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Acquiring key geographical skills are essential to our teaching as children live in a world that is wide open to them with opportunities to travel and work in different cities and countries. Therefore, it is vital for pupils to use maps, charts and other geographical data efficiently.

Aims and objectives:

The aims of geography in our school are:

- To promote positive attitudes and enthusiasm for Geography.
- To stimulate children's interest in their local surroundings and develop an understanding of the physical and human processes.
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and gain an understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To progressively develop their geographical skills by understanding how to use, draw and interpret maps showing different scales.
- To develop geographical vocabulary to help them carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To interpret a range of sources of geographical information through the use of maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems.

- Overall, the aims and objectives of WPS are to ensure the progressive development of geographical concepts, knowledge, skills and attitudes from Early Years to KS2.

Teaching and learning

At Westminster Primary School, we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. We implement whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. As well as this, children take part in role-play and discussions and they present reports to the rest of the class. Children are encouraged to ask geographical questions and use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures and aerial photographs.

Curriculum Overview

At Westminster Primary School, Geography planning is taken from our own bespoke Medium Term Plans (MTPs) which provides an in depth coverage of skills designed to meet the National Primary Curriculum. Geography is taught as part of our topic based curriculum and the themes are taught in 4 blocks. The different themes covered in each year group have the objectives taken from the National Curriculum.

(Refer to the Curriculum Policy)

Early Years

Activities and experiences for pupils will be based on the seven areas of learning and development, as outlined in the DfE's 'Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.'

Provision for Early Years pupils focusses on four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.

All activities will adhere to the objectives set out in the framework. In particular, geography- based activities will be used to develop pupils' understanding of the world, helping them to comprehend a world beyond their local community.

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, pupils investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United Kingdom or abroad. They explore and find out about the environment in both areas and the people who live there. Also, they learn about the wider world and carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside of the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions about people, places and

environments. They use geographical skills and resources such as maps and photographs.

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, pupils study a variety of people, places and environments in the United Kingdom and abroad. They start to make links between different places in the world. They learn about how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. Pupils carry out geographical enquiry skills and ask questions about their local environment. Pupils further develop their geographical skills and use suitable vocabulary, maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT to study the wider world.

Overall, wherever possible, the Geography curriculum will provide opportunities to establish links with other curriculum areas.

Marking and presentation

(Refer to the school Marking Policy)

Assessment

At Westminster Primary School, assessment is used to inform teaching and planning, provide summative assessment for teachers and provide information for parents.

Assessment will be undertaken in various forms, including the following:

- Talking to pupils and asking questions.
- Discussing pupils' work with them.
- Marking work against the learning objectives
- Observing practical tasks and activities
- Pupils' self-evaluation of their work

Parents will be provided with a written report about their child's progress during the summer term every year. These will include information on the pupil's attitude towards geography, understanding of geographical terminology, investigatory skills and the knowledge levels they have achieved. Verbal reports will be provided at parent-teacher interviews during the Autumn and Spring terms.

The role of the Geography co-ordinator is to:

- Renew, update and oversee the audit of resources and provision needed to deliver the curriculum.
- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content to a high standard and develop their skills in planning, teaching and assessing geography.

- Monitor and evaluate the teaching and learning of geography.
- Be informed about current developments in the teaching and learning of Geography and provide a strategic lead.
- Liaise with outside agencies and attend subject-specific courses.
- Liaise with outside agencies and organise field trips and workshops.
- Review and evaluate the action plan, budget and planning annually.
- Review and evaluate the policy and ensure it is up to date.

Inclusion and Equal opportunities:

All children will be given equal access to Geography irrespective of race, gender and creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of Geography. In order to provide work that is appropriate to the learning experiences of the individual children it is necessary for the teacher to be aware of the statements/individual educational programmes that apply to children in the class that he/she is teaching.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Geography coordinator. The Geography coordinator will monitor teaching and learning in the subject at Westminster Primary School, ensuring that the content of the National Curriculum is covered across all phases of pupils' education. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all teaching staff.

H. Fletcher

March 2021