

Fairchildes Primary School Geography Policy

Rationale

At Fairchildes, we understand geography as the study of people, places and environments throughout the world. It develops an understanding of the human and natural world, maps, and a range of investigative and problem solving skills. Through geographical enquiry children can learn to evaluate the world around them. The study of geography enables children to understand local, national and international issues by studying the socio-economic and geographical aspects of various contrasting localities. It offers children the opportunity to engage in field work activities and to consider how their own actions may have an impact on the environment.

Aims

At Fairchildes we believe that geography is an active study of the world around us, which broadens children's horizons and understanding of their world. In teaching geography we aim to:

- Stimulate pupils' interest in their own surroundings and other localities, both in the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- Give pupils the opportunities to make observations and to form opinions about their immediate environment and other localities.
- Understand how physical geographical features (including climate) affect the lifestyles of different peoples throughout the world.
- Foster pupils' sense of wonder at the beauty of the world around them.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between people and the environment and how people's actions affect the quality of the environment.
- Enhance the pupils' sense of responsibility with regard to caring for the Earth.
- Develop an awareness and appreciation of cultural and economic diversity.
- Acquire and develop skills necessary for making geographical enquiries.

Teaching and Learning in Geography

The teaching and learning of geography in our school is both stimulating and motivating. Pupils should enjoy developing their skills and knowledge and begin to perceive the world as an interesting place. It should involve encouraging children to ask questions, to identify ways in which they might find the answers and finally to search for those answers.

The scheme of work for Geography at Fairchildes will be based upon the National Curriculum. It is topic-based, and should have links with other areas of the curriculum where it makes sense to do so.

Each year group will teach a number of specified key facts (listed in the scheme of work) which build on the knowledge of previous years, and which are designed to increase pupils' understanding of geographical concepts such as continents, countries and cities as well as physical features such as mountains, rivers and seas.

Our geography lessons include a range of resources that include I.C.T., photographs, aerial photographs, posters, books, videos, maps and through educational visits to places relevant to the areas of study covered.

Inclusion

As teachers we must be aware of, and respond to, pupils' diverse learning needs, including those with English as an additional language, those with learning difficulties, and the Able, Gifted and Talented pupils. Teachers will identify gifted and talented, and SEN/EAL pupils and ensure they are supported and challenged.

All children will have access to Geography, therefore work and activities will be differentiated accordingly to ensure that children of all abilities participate to their full potential. Consideration will be given to resources used to ensure they are accessible for all. When planning visits, physical abilities must be taken into account.

Any materials used should present other cultures, countries and peoples in a balanced and positive way. Children should be taught to appreciate these commonalities and differences in people and cultures around the world.

Assessment, Record Keeping and Recording.

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows the whole school policy guidelines.

Pupils are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school's marking policy. Children record their work in geography in a variety of ways: creating a class book of findings, verbal discussions over a topic, work completed for displays and through cross-curricular links with other subjects. Reports to parents are completed annually.