

# MAPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Geography Policy



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## 1. Aims and Purposes

We teach Geography to:

- Stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and in the variety of human and physical features of their own environment and those further a field.
- Foster children's sense of wonder at the beauty of the world around them
- Help children develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment/earth and their responsibility to care for it
- Develop and use geographical enquiry skills
- Enable children to gain knowledge, understanding and respect of places and cultures in the world

## 2. Teaching and Learning

Through teaching Geography, we can:

- Improve pupils' skills in all areas of the curriculum
- Develop pupils' thinking skills
- Promote awareness and understanding of environmental and cultural issues both locally and in the wider world
- Develop Geographical enquiry and skills
- Develop knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes, environmental change and sustainable development

In teaching Geography, teachers will:

- Use a range of methods to provide interest and participation for all children, eg: fiction (narrative) and non-fiction accounts; debates; role play; model making; drawings and diagrams; artefacts; field trips
- Often use a key question to direct pupils' thinking/enquiry about the past
- Use starters and plenaries to ensure students fully understand what they are learning, how they learn and how well they are progressing.

In learning Geography pupils will:

- Use a range of sources such as the local environment, photographs, artefacts, first hand experiences, visitors, field trips, ICT based materials, primary sources, data and TV/video extracts
- Investigate significant or current issues relating to the environment or a particular country
- Work in a variety of contexts - individually, in groups, as a whole class
- Present their knowledge in a variety of ways such as through problem solving and enquiry based research activities, sketches, maps, writing, art, drama and models
- Begin to ask as well as answer geographical questions.

## 3. Planning Framework

Long term planning is undertaken in the yearly plans. Medium term planning takes place on a half-termly basis. The medium term plans identify a sequence of activities, learning objectives and outcomes. Modules from the QCA scheme have been selected for each year group.

- Foundation Stage:  
Geography is incorporated into the 6 areas of learning especially Knowledge and Understanding of the World, in a variety of ways, such as practical activities both

inside and out, visits into the local area, using books, artefacts and visiting speakers to raise awareness of different countries and cultures.

- Key Stage 1:  
Geography is usually integrated into and taught as part of a topic.
- Key Stage 2:  
Geography is studied under a specific topic heading but cross curricular links are encouraged where appropriate.

#### 4. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment procedures are in line with the School's Assessment Policy.
- Learning outcomes are identified in the medium term plans.
- Individual records are on-going in the teacher's own notes and reports on how the pupil has achieved are sent home annually.
- Trialling Geography levelling this academic year

#### 5. Role of the Co-ordinator

The Geography Co-ordinator will:

- Manage and maintain Geography curriculum resources.
- Monitor, review and develop the school's Geography Policy in line with national and local guidelines.
  - a. Maintain and update subject knowledge and feed back good practice and new resources to colleagues where appropriate.
- Lead INSET or staff meetings and provide advice and support to colleagues where appropriate
- Maintain continuity and progression in Geography across the school by working closely with other members of staff.
- Have a general oversight of Geography across the Key Stages through:
  - a. Regular access to children's work
  - b. Seeing yearly and termly plans for all classes
  - c. Knowledge of assessment in line with school practice and policies
  - d. Yearly feedback from staff on Geography in their year group
  - e. Working with teachers and children in Geography lessons when appropriate
  - f. Being aware of practice from Reception to Year 6.

#### 6. Resources

Resources are stored in the Resources Room or teachers' classrooms.