

Name of Policy: Geography	Version/Last Review Date: March 2020 (V3)
Statutory documents linked to policy:	Previous review date: June 2013 (Version 1) September 2017 (version 2)
Other Policies linked to this policy:	Next Review Date: June 2023
Governor Committee Responsible	Curriculum & Research

WNA Vision: All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst enjoying and driving their own learning, gaining self-respect, self-esteem and self- belief. Our classroom extends to rich, exciting environments within the forest, the beach, the city and the community as a whole.

Geography is the study of the environment, local to global, and the physical and human forces, which shape it.

Aims

Our aims in teaching geography are that all children will:

- Develop an understanding of the features and conditions which make up the physical environment
- Appreciate how human beings have used the environment with positive and negative effects
- Learn to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental questions
- Develop the geographical skills of:
 - i. observing and comparing places and geographical features
 - ii. communicating using appropriate geographical vocabulary
 - iii. measuring and recording accurately
 - iv. interpreting and using maps, atlases and globes

Principles of the Teaching and Learning of Geography

Geography is important because:

- It is a body of knowledge essential to our understanding of the world around us
- The skills and knowledge of geography have wide application in everyday life
- Environmental awareness is a prerequisite for responsible participation in society

The fundamental skills, knowledge and concepts of the subject are set out in the National Curriculum and IPC where they are presented under the headings of:

- Geographical enquiry and skills
- Knowledge and understanding of places
- Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development

Strategies for the Teaching of Geography

- The geography curriculum is based on the objectives in the national curriculum, the International curriculum and some NC units where appropriate
- Geography is in a variety of ways – outside learning, whole class, co-operative group work and individual teaching
- Teachers ensure that geographical enquiry and skills are used by the children when developing an understanding of places, patterns and processes and also sustainable development
- Year group colleagues plan in teams to fulfil the requirements set out in the schemes of work.
- Teaching groups are usually mixed ability
- Practical activity and fieldwork in the environment, are undertaken weekly
- Geographical discussion is encouraged
- Findings are communicated in a variety of ways

- Resources are readily available and accessible
- Opportunities are provided for the children to use ICT to support their geographical learning
- Opportunities to promote creativity and enhance learning are actively planned for in the medium term plans and through mantle learning where appropriate

Strategies for Ensuring Progress, Continuity and Creativity

- The units identified on the long term planning sheets are carefully balanced to ensure full coverage of the National Curriculum, IPC and Welsh Foundation Stage
- Schemes of work for geography are developed by the headteacher in collaboration with the whole staff
- The medium term topic plans identify the learning objectives for each half term in which geography is studied. These are monitored by the headteacher
- Links between subjects and creative approaches are developed in the medium term plans

Feedback to pupils about their progress in geography is achieved through the effective marking of their work. (See Marking Policy)

Formative assessment is used to guide the progress of individual pupils in geography. It is carried out informally by teachers in the course of their teaching.

Strategies for Recording and Reporting

- Notes may be recorded on the Observation Sheets concerning achievement in geography
- Reporting to parents is done annually through a written report

Health and safety issues in Geography include:

- Use of equipment in accordance with health and safety requirements
- Teaching the pupils to understand the need for safe practice in outside and field activities
- Risk assessment undertaken prior to visits and field trips.