



Geography at Rackenfurd C of E Primary School

Intent

At Rackenfurd Church of England Primary School, we aim to provide pupils with a high-quality geography education that will inspire a curiosity and fascination about our Earth and the diverse people who live across it. 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. We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area of Rackenfurd so that they can develop a real sense of who they are, their heritage and what makes our local area unique and special. Our geography curriculum allows children to shine and become stewards of the environment by supporting and understanding their community and the wider world in relation to contemporary issues.

Implementation

Geography is taught at Rackenfurd C of E Primary School in the EYFS through the Understanding of the World strand. Pupils are guided to develop a sense of their physical world, as well as their community, through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

In years 1- 6, our geography curriculum is based on the National Curriculum and utilises the Cornerstones programme of study, supported by a clear progression of skills and knowledge across the whole school. It is a coherent, progressive and rigorous programme which engages and motivates pupils and encourages them to see the world through the eyes of young geographers. The scheme allows sequential growth over time to be balanced and distributed evenly across every academic year.

Our geography curriculum is primarily interwoven through topic-based work and is taught in blocks, playing a key part in the achievement of high aspirations. Teachers plan and adapt lessons for their pupils, meeting the needs of, and engaging all pupils. Opportunities for making meaningful connections with other subjects are maximised and topics are sequenced throughout the school to build on prior knowledge.

Educational visits are used to enhance pupil's experiences. Fieldwork allows pupils to apply geographical skills in a real-life setting and explore their local area and the features within it.

Throughout Key Stage 1 pupils carry out geographical investigations which enable them to use and apply appropriate subject vocabulary and subject tools (including maps, aerial photographs, graphical data and fieldwork skills) to recognise, identify, describe, observe, reason and begin to explain in simple terms the interaction of people within their environments.

Through Lower Key Stage 2, geographical learning and teaching builds on the knowledge and understanding, skills and outcomes at Key Stage 1, and the pupils are encouraged to reach explanations and conclusions about topics, places and issues they have studied. Pupils are expected to base their understanding on data they have collected.



At Upper Key Stage 2 pupils will focus on big questions that extend their subject skills so that they are able to make judgements about things they learn, both from their own personal perspectives and through empathising with others.

Geography at Rackenfurd Primary School is taught through the Cornerstones programme of study which is based on the four Cornerstones approach; Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express.

During the Engage stage we:

- Hook learners in with a memorable experience.
- Set the scene and provide the context for learning.
- Ask questions to find out children's interests.
- Spark children's curiosity using interesting starting points.

During the Develop stage we:

- Teach facts and information for deeper understanding and knowledge.
- Demonstrate new skills and allow time for consolidation.
- Provide creative opportunities for making and doing.
- Deliver reading, writing and talking across the curriculum.

During the Innovate stage we:

- Provide imaginative scenarios that encourage creative thinking.
- Enable children to apply previously learned skills.
- Encourage enterprise and independent thinking.
- Provide opportunities for collaborative working and problem solving.

During the Express stage we:

- Provide environments for reflective talk.
- Create opportunities for shared evaluation.
- Celebrate and share children's success.
- Identify next steps for learning.

Geography is assessed through the use of double page spreads (following Mary Myatt approach and use of questioning) which allows children to present and share their learning. This informs teacher assessments.

Impact

- Outcomes in topic books evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge.
- As pupils progress through Rackenfurd C of E Primary School, they develop a deep knowledge, understanding and appreciation for their local area and its place within the wider geographical context.
- Pupils will master a wide range of subject specific language. They will have a strong knowledge of their local area and locational knowledge of other countries and cities from around the world.
- Pupils will be confident geographers and be able to clearly discuss their learning from past and current topics, as well as explain their next steps.