Waltham St Lawrence Primary School

Curriculum Statement for Geography

Intent

We believe studying Geography can inspire children with a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with strong foundations and a diverse knowledge about people, places, resources and environments and help them understand the interaction between physical and human processes. They will understand the importance of sustainability and the role they can play as stewards of our ever-changing world.

Through the study of Geography, children's general knowledge will be strengthened and they will become confident using a range of subject specific vocabulary. Furthermore, school trips will give children a range of opportunities and experiences which they may not have access to at home.

Geography forms an important part of the curriculum and is taught discretely as well as being incorporated across all other areas of the curriculum.

Implementation

In Key Stage One, children will develop their knowledge about the United Kingdom and their own locality, taking part in a field trip to study their local environment. They will learn how to use maps and globes, locating and naming the continents and seas using simple compass directions. Children also study seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and compare them to hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. Children will begin using geographical vocabulary to refer to and discuss the features of human and physical geography.

In Key Stage Two, children will extend their knowledge beyond their local area to include Europe and North and South America. This will include studying a range of the world's most significant human and physical features and develop their use of skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge. Children will begin to look at the similarities and differences of human geography such as types of settlements, land use and trade links. They will also study physical geographical elements such as climate zones, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and begin to understand how the Earth's features are formed, interconnected and change over time. Children will continue to use maps and globes and will begin learning how to read and use an atlas. They will use the eight points of the compass in their work and start to consider the use of four and six figure grid references and ordinance survey maps. Work in Geography will have links across the curriculum as children will use fieldwork to observe, measure and record using a range of methods, including sketch-maps, plans, graphs and digital-mapping.

Impact

Through the study of Geography, our children will engage in creative and critical thinking about change, both on a local and global level. Through building on geographical skills and fieldwork within human and physical Geography, our children will gain a greater understanding of the world in which we live and their place in it.

Assessment

Assessment of the children's knowledge and understanding in Geography will be ongoing throughout the year. Assessment will include observations, discussions and written outcomes. A summative assessment of whether a child is working at age related expectations will be carried out through an age appropriate end of unit task. This will contribute to the end of the year written annual report to parents/carers.