

St Marychurch C.E Primary and Nursery School
Geography Policy (Draft)

RATIONALE

Geography is about exploring the relationship between our planet and its inhabitants through the study of varieties of environments. As a subject it provides links between pupils moral spiritual and social development and their skills of enquiry, problem solving, communication and number related awareness, both inside and outside the classroom. This means that Geography holds a unique position in the school curriculum as it contains within it elements of many other subject areas. It is an important link between the natural and social sciences. Through the study of Geography, pupils encounter different societies and cultures. This helps them realize how nations rely on each other. It can inspire them to think about their own place in the world, their values, and their rights and responsibilities to each other and the environment.

PURPOSES

To stimulate the interest of pupils in their immediate environment and to develop their awareness of the many and varied environments and human habitats that exist in our world.

To develop an understanding of the way that humans can affect, for good or ill, the landscape and other organisms around them.

To increase the understanding that the world is affected by a variety of physical, social and economic changes, and to develop the awareness that these changes are on going.

To develop the awareness of place within the pupils, and to recognize the complex social and economic factors which connect this place to the wider world.

To foster a sense of wonder at the variety and beauty of the world, and to develop an understanding of their responsibilities, as world citizens, to care for their environment.

To develop pupils' skills of critical enquiry and an ability to handle and interpret information, through asking and answering geographical questions and using ICT to communicate with and explore a variety of people, places and environments across the world.

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDELINES

Children need to be encouraged to develop decision-making skills through enquiry based learning activities.

Children need to develop their awareness of the affects of their actions upon others in the future as part of work on the changes in human environments over time.

Children need to understand the relationship of their locality to others and to build up a framework of geographical knowledge, which includes other places in the world.

Children should have access to map related work to develop their map making and interpreting skills in IT and in fieldwork.

Children need to develop the awareness of their world through a range of study areas. These should include their own school, Torquay, Devon, British and European examples, as well as studies on families in far off continents.

They need to be introduced to the basic concepts of human, physical and environmental geography through the use of real places. They should be taught the skills of investigation.

Children need to be helped to develop sensitivity to the attitudes and lifestyles of others, whilst being able to express their own ideas and opinions.

Children should be encouraged to recognize the many cross-curricular skills, which aid their work in investigations and recording of work in this subject.

PLANNING

Staff should continue to use the QCA programmes of study for planning units of work.

In the Foundation stage Geography is taught as part of the Footsteps curriculum, in Knowledge and Understanding.

ASSESSMENT

Children's work should be assessed at the end of units. Work towards the end of a unit can be used as the basis for teachers to assess against curriculum targets. Assessment in this subject needs to take into account the wide variety of formats that investigations can be presented in. Children can be assessed on factual knowledge as well as geographical concepts or skills.

HOMEWORK

KEY STAGE ONE-Children may be asked to find out simple things about their immediate locality and be able to talk about them.

KEY STAGE TWO-Pupils in Lower Juniors may be asked to find out about things in the local area and report back findings.

Pupils in Upper Juniors may be asked to complete some in class tasks as homework.