

**Atwood Primary School**

# **Geography Policy**



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**(or to meet new legislation and practices)**

# Atwood Primary School



## Policy for Geography

GEOGRAPHY is concerned with the study of places, the human and the physical processes, which shape them and the people who live in them. It helps pupils to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

### Aims

#### Our Aims

Through our teaching of geography we aim to:

- stimulate pupils' interest in and curiosity about their surroundings
- increase their knowledge and understanding of the changing world
- encourage pupils to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems
- develop pupils' competence in specific geographical skills
- foster a sense of responsibility for the earth and its resources

#### Through Geography we can also:

- Improve pupils' skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT
- Develop pupils' thinking skills
- Promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues
- Develop pupils as active citizens

### Principles of Learning

GEOGRAPHY is important because:

- The knowledge contained in it is essential to our understanding of the world in which we live, local and global.
- The skills and knowledge of geography are life skills.
- Concern for the environment is essential in order to ensure a quality future for all.

GEOGRAPHY is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. The fundamental skills, knowledge and concepts of the subject are set out in "Geography in the National Curriculum". Each key stage "Programme of Study" has the following components:

- Geographical enquiry and skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of places: from the locality of the school in KS1 to a locality in a country that is less economically developed in KS2.
- Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes.
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development.

### Principles for Teaching

The GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM in KS1 and KS2 is organised on a topic basis.

- The emphasis in our teaching of geography is on acquiring knowledge and relevant geographical skills through the study of **real places**.
- There is no specialist teaching in geography, it is taught by class teachers.
- Teaching Assistants are used in geography if available, to assist as appropriate.
- Homework is used to support geography.

- Equal opportunities are addressed by the whole school policy but particular care is taken in geography to provide a balanced choice of countries and cultures and to give to give a full and fair representation of other cultures.
- Excellence in geography is celebrated through display, presentation, topic books and KS2 class assemblies.

#### **When teaching geography we:**

- Always explain what we want pupils to know, understand and be able to do through the geography they are about to do.
- Often use a key question to direct pupils' thinking / enquiry
- Vary the resources and activities to ensure each pupil can learn effectively
- Use starters and plenaries to ensure students fully understand what they are learning, how they learn and how well they are progressing

#### **Principles for Ensuring Progress and Continuity**

PLANNING in geography is a process in which all teachers are involved. This is developed through a process of collaboration between staff, and approved by governors.

- The co-ordinator monitors planning, to ensure full coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Work plans are drawn up for each geography topic by individual teachers.
- Cross curriculum links are developed.

#### **Principles for Assessment**

##### **To assess pupils' progress in geography we:**

- Gather evidence of what individual pupils know, understand and can do in geography by observing them at work, listening to and discussing with them, and evaluating any work they produce.
- Make periodic and end of key stage judgements using the levels of attainment statements from The National Curriculum. To ensure that these are accurate, we have developed a portfolio of annotated pupils' work and teachers' descriptions and analysis of pupils' performance.
- Report annually to parents on how well the pupil has achieved, what s/he does well and what is needed to bring further improvements.
- Assessment is recorded using Classroom Monitor.
- AFL is integrated into each lesson.

#### **Principles for the Use of Resources**

- Classroom resources in geography are kept, clearly labelled in the classroom.
- Central resources in geography are the responsibility of the geography Co-ordinator provided from a budget for KS1 and KS2.
- Visits to other localities are part of the planned programme and occur in various year group plans.
- Information Technology is a major resource used in geography.