

# 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 in teaching Geography are to enable children to

- Develop an understanding of the features and conditions which make up the physical environment.
- Appreciate that human beings use that environment with positive and negative effects.
- Develop a range of geographical skills.
- Learn to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems.
- Develop an appropriate vocabulary to help them understand and discuss geographical issues.
- Develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding.

### 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 is organised on an integrated topic basis in the Foundation years moving towards a subject based delivery at K.S.2 with appropriate cross curricular links.

- The predominant mode of working in Geography is co-operative group work, although class teaching and individual work are used where appropriate. Groups may be ability or mixed ability depending on the task. At all times discussion and sharing of each other's opinions is actively encouraged.
- There is no specialist teaching in Geography, it is taught by class teachers.
- Learning Assistants are used in Geography if available, to assist as appropriate.
- Pupils with special needs may receive extra support in the classroom by use of differentiated tasks and/or help from a learning assistant.
- 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.
- The emphasis in our teaching of Geography is on acquiring knowledge and relevant geographical skills through the study of **real places**.
- Excellence in Geography is celebrated through display and compilation of topic folders by individual children.

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

PLANNING in Geography is a process in which all teachers are involved, wherein the foundation for curricular planning is the School Development Plan. This is developed through a process of collaboration between staff, and approved by governors.

- The co-ordinator monitors the schemes of work, based on the QCA units, to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Work plans are drawn up for each Geography topic by individual teachers.
- Cross curriculum links are developed.
- Regular review meetings are held to ensure consistency of approach and standards.

### **Principles for Assessment**

- Feedback to pupils about their own progress is achieved through the marking and discussion of work.
- Formative assessment is used to guide the progress of individual pupils in Geography. It involves identifying each child's progress in each aspect of the subject, determining what each child has learned and what therefore should be the next stage of learning. Formative assessment is generally informal and part of everyday teaching.
- Summative assessment occurs at the end of each Geography topic and is recorded formally.

### **Principles for Recording and Reporting**

- Records of progress in Geography are kept for each child.
- Reporting to parents is done on a termly basis through interviews and annually through a written report.

### **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 K S.1 and K.S.2.
- 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.

Amended by KMD October 2006