

Geography Policy 2019-20



Black Firs School

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning geography at Black Firs School.



Creative Process

The age of our learners means that we need to bring geography alive for children. We need to find creative ways to do this through educational visits, practical investigations, and inspiring research projects and case studies. We believe that impactful learning needs to happen holistically. We need to make geography relevant to our children so they gain an individual understanding of their impact on the environment. Children need to understand that they are living in a time of continual change on our planet.

Intent

Geography at Black Firs Primary School centres on the impact the environment has upon us and the effect we have upon our environment

Implementation

At Black Firs we believe that for good learning to take place, children need to have sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills of the particular unit being studied.

The teaching of geography will follow an enquiry approach. At Black Firs we work with a holistic, creative approach around a central theme for the term. The geography taught is closely linked to the main topic to keep it relevant for the children.

At Black Firs we are very aware that children need to use and apply geographical understanding in everyday contexts. We not only concentrate on the knowledge and skills detailed in the National Curriculum. Children have the opportunity to explore, experience and understand why geography is important in our lives. To encourage greater understanding and more creative communication, we adopt the schools creative process when teaching geography.

Impact

In the Early Years, children will comment and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place they live or the natural world. They will show care and concern for living things and the environment. Children will look closely at similarities and differences, patterns and change. They will talk about features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one to another.

In KS1 children will gradually broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of places and themes. They will be able to recognise and describe places using appropriate geographical vocabulary. Children will be expected to offer their own explanations about observations they make. Children will make more detailed comparisons between places and describe these in terms of geographical features.

In KS2 children will continue their development of the above plus; They will describe places with increasing accuracy and coherence. They will offer explanations for the characteristics of places. They will start to identify physical and human features and describe some of their effects. Gradually they will become able to apply geographical ideas learnt to other contexts. They will learn to acquire information from secondary sources as well as from first hand observation to investigate aspects of local and more distant physical and human environment.

Reporting

Reporting to parents is done on a regular basis at parent interviews. In addition an annual report is sent home in July. Ongoing records are shared with parents through our online Earwig system.

Record Keeping

Annual report to parents, comments and targets in Study Books and own teacher's records. Records tagged to the subject on Earwig.

Please refer to the school policy document on Record Keeping.

Children with SEND

Please refer to School Policy Document on Special Needs.

Equal Opportunities

Please refer to the School Aims & Statement on Equal Opportunities.

Role Of Coordinator

- Highlight areas for the development of Geography within the School Development Plan.
- Review and audit regularly curriculum resources held in school.
- Review and keep a record of Continuing Professional Development needs of all staff and provide suitable training opportunities.
- Disseminate relevant information to all members of staff.
- Keep up to date with developments in Geography through relevant documents, magazines and internet sites.
- Ensure a whole school approach to the planning, recording and assessment of Geography.
- Ensure that this policy is successfully implemented throughout the school.
- Review and update this policy periodically.

Health & Safety (see also Health & Safety Policy)

See Health and Safety policy.

Review

The School policy for Geography reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.