



West Byfleet Infant School
We Belong, Inspire, Succeed

Geography Policy



Context of Policy to our School vision and Values

Our school vision is 'We Belong, Inspire, Succeed'. This reminds us daily that children need to feel safe and secure within the school community, have opportunities to inspire their interests and an enthusiasm for learning, as well as achieving success at all levels.

At West Byfleet Infant School, we believe that Geography helps children to understand the importance of the world around us and how we are all part of a community.

It aims to develop an understanding of the world and how important is it to take care of our resources.

We focus on learning about the physical and human features of the earth, alongside the impact of global warming. It fosters an interest and understanding of other cultures and areas of the world by incorporating virtual maps, off site trips, visitors and photos.

Member of staff responsible	Sam Dudley
Date Policy Produced	Autumn 2024
Policy agreed/last reviewed	Jan 2022
Next review date	Autumn 2025
Other Related Policies	
Is it a Statutory Policy?	No
Does it need Governor approval?	No

Our Curriculum:

Our curriculum follows the National expectations and we use Cornerstones projects to enhance and support our planning, sequencing and resourcing. We encourage children to participate in a variety of experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence and resilience of all individuals. There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each project, the progression of skills are planned into the units of work means that the children are increasingly challenged throughout their time in school. As Reception is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, we relate the Geography learning to the objectives set out from Development Matters under Understanding the World.

The Geography Subject Leader, monitors planning & teaching through the year, to ensure continuity, progression and high standards throughout the school.

Aims:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of contrasting places in the world.
2. To develop an awareness of the world beyond the pupils own environment.
3. To develop a variety of skills such as enquiry, problem solving and investigating.
4. To stimulate children's interest in the world around them and their responsibility to take care of the world and its people.

At West Byfleet Infant School we aim to ensure that our children can...

- Ask geographical questions.
- Observe areas and record their findings.
- Express their own views about people, places and environments.
- Use geographical vocabulary to refer to key human and physical features.
- Use fieldwork skills.
- Use globes, maps and plans at a range of scales.
- Use secondary resources of information.
- Make maps and plans.
- Identify and describe what places are like and where they are.
- Recognise how places have become the way they are and how they are changing.
- Compare different places of the world.

Teaching & Learning:

At West Byfleet we believe in making Geography an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children with their geographical skills. In the EYFS team, there is ongoing provision for children to access both inside and outside the classroom. Enhanced provision, objective led learning and questioning will also take place where applicable. In KS1 the lessons are practical and engaging and follow many of the same attributes from the EYFS with questioning and resources. This allows a progression of skills and Geography enquiry across school at a level appropriate for children at their own level of understanding.

Resources:

In the Year 2 corridor there is a cupboard of resources available for all year groups to use. There is a wide range of books organised into appropriate categories along with physical resources such as globes, photos and maps. Online resources can also be used such as videos and google maps. Role play is used across school in at a level appropriate to the children. Parents are also encouraged to share their experiences of the wider community and the world.

Recording

Lessons should be engaging, fun and practical where possible, however, work should be recorded in KS1 discovery books at least once a term. This can be done through written work, drawings or purple pen for pupil voice with a picture (marking policy). Tapestry may be used in Reception and Year 1 to record children's learning. Teachers should follow the marking policy and challenges should be given in accordance with Geography learning.

Assessment

Assessments are made in line with the school assessment policy. Children demonstrate their ability in Geography in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's learning in Geography by making informal judgements as they observe them during practical lessons or during written work. This should be collated when recording learning. Class Teachers record assessments half termly using Cornerstones assessment tool. These assessments are used to inform future planning.