



Geography Policy

This policy should be read in connection with the Whole School Curriculum Policy.

"Schools should bear in mind that the objective in the National Curriculum is to ensure that each pupil should obtain maximum benefit by offering pupils the opportunity to reach the highest possible achievements without making impossible demands".

Geography is concerned with the study of places, human and physical processes which shape them and the people who live in them. It helps pupils make sense of their surroundings and the wider world and the need to care of and preserve the world's natural resources.

Geography will help us deliver the aims of Beacon Hill School in the following ways:

Actively develops parental partnerships for the benefit of the children.

The home environment is the first environment a child will encounter and understand. Parents have a vital part to play in enabling their child to do this. They are also able to support the more formal work of school in this area thus enhancing its value to the pupils.

Has high expectations for continuous improvement in order to raise standards for pupils.

Every pupil has an entitlement to the Geography curriculum at a level that they can make sense of it. It is important that high standards of teaching and resources are used to enable pupils to gain the most from this subject.

Establishes an atmosphere of security, trust and respect for all.

For some pupils their feeling of well-being and safety in the school environment should be reinforced if their knowledge and understanding of it is increased. Geography has an important role to play; specifically the areas of the Geography curriculum that refer to taking care of the environment and our local area are especially relevant.

Positively promotes and encourages independence, confidence and self-

advocacy.

A pupil's independence and sense of self-esteem should be increased if their knowledge and understanding of the world around them and their ability to take care of it is developed. A pupil's quality of life should also be positively enhanced by increased knowledge of other cultures and people.

Values communication and provides the time and opportunity to make it effective.

Awareness of other countries and areas of Britain and the opportunity to communicate with them should help develop pupil's abilities to form relationships, even with people far away. The opportunity for fieldwork and residential activities should also help to develop social skills and friends.

Celebrates achievement for all.

Geography should provide many excellent opportunities for the display and sharing of pupil's work and ideas. These should include photographic records of fieldwork.

Specifically the aims of Geographical Study include:

- *Geography should encourage among pupils a sense of curiosity and enquiry about the environment and their surroundings and a variety of physical and human conditions on the earth's surfaces*
- *Geography should help pupils develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment and the future of the human environment*
- *Geography should foster a caring attitude in all matters relating to human beings, living creatures and plants*
- *Geography should extend an awareness and understanding of the immediate local environment to foster their sense of wonder in the world around them to link with other aspects of the curriculum when possible*
- *Geography should encourage in children a feeling of tolerance, understanding and empathy for others - not only those whom they come into daily contact but also for children of other lands*

Guidelines

1. Pupils at Beacon Hill will have access to the Geography curriculum except at KS4 and 6th Form where geographical concepts will be taught through modules and units.
2. Geography has cross-curricular links with other subjects, for example, Numeracy (measuring, locating, quantifying and comparing), Science (understanding of the weather and the environment), Literacy (reporting, media understanding and communicating with others), Religious Education

(respect for other faiths and ways of life), History (links to specific historical periods i.e. Ancient Egypt), Modern Foreign Languages (awareness of location and physical features of countries around the world). All of these will help increase a pupil's self-esteem and awareness.

3. The allocation of time to *Geography* is discussed and agreed by governors annually and may be different for each key stage. *Geography* is not studied as a distinct subject in Early Years or at Key Stage 4 and above. The Early Learning Goals set out a cross curriculum approach, which enables pupils to investigate and experience geographical themes, and are studied through topic work, Literacy and Science.
4. Work in *Geography* is differentiated to meet the needs of the full ability age. It is planned through topics and a scheme of work.
5. The *Geography* curriculum will be taught through a three yearly cycle of topics with specific elements linked to specific topics. Details are in the schemes of work.
6. During planning reference is made to schemes of work, which have been written with close reference to the QCA documents, ensuring that breadth, progression and all elements of *Geography* are covered.
7. For all pupils the emphasis will be on concrete experiences to develop their understanding. Community facilities are used to reinforce these experiences.
8. Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties will be taught through specific schemes of work which aim to maximise their experience and the use of their senses.
9. National P-scales are used in *Geography* as a means of informing planning and monitoring progress made by pupils.
10. Care will be taken when planning *Geography* to ensure that childhood disorders, such as autism, are considered and reflected in the delivery of this subject.
11. *Geographical* study will enhance pupil's spiritual sense of amazement at the beauty and diversity of the size of the world around and the schemes of work will encourage this and incidental opportunities will also encourage this.
12. Access to the study of *Geography* will be in accordance with the equal opportunities policy.

13. The use of signs and symbols as well as ICT will be used to improve teaching in this area.
14. Pupils will use the Internet to access carefully selected geographical information to help support their study.
15. Pupil's ability to speak and listen will specifically be enhanced through geographical discussion and exploration.
16. Work will be included to increase pupil's awareness of others, their lifestyles and problems.
17. Pupil's achievements in *Geography* will be variable but will always be valued and where appropriate, celebrated.
18. The emphasis at all times will be on improving the skills of all the pupils and on improving the work of the school in this area.
19. Work in *Geography* will be recorded regularly and this recording will inform pupils learning.
20. Work will be assessed annually through teacher assessments and reported to parents as part of the annual review procedures.
21. Older pupils will have access to external accreditation, specifically ALL, ASDAN and AQA units in this area.
22. It is important for content and progression that *Geography* lessons are regularly monitored.
23. For the continuous development of the *Geography* curriculum an action plan is written and reviewed each year.