



Geography Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aim of Geography teaching at Holbrook Primary School is to stimulate the children's interest in and understanding of places and environments. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem-solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognize the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

1.2 The aims of geography are:

- to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- to increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country;
- to allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- to enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- to encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- to develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

2 Teaching and learning

2.1 At Holbrook we follow a cross-curricular topic based approach. A range of teaching styles is used in order to match the range of learning styles represented in each class. All lessons should have a variety of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities; for example whole class activities, role play, using a variety of sources, ICT, discussion, problem solving, enquiry-based research.

Equal Opportunities

At Holbrook Primary School we believe all children should have equal access to the curriculum. We recognise the fact that in all classes there are children of widely different abilities in geography and therefore in planning the Geography curriculum, it is important that we provide opportunities for learning which are available to all children. This is achieved by:-

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the child
- teaching differentiated activities appropriate to children's ability

3 Geography curriculum planning

Geography is taught in topics linked to work in other subjects. The long-term plan maps the Geography topics studied in each term during each Key Stage and ensures progression of Geographical skills. Medium Term planning may incorporate some elements of the QCA units for Geography, and cross curricular links are made as appropriate. Class teachers write their own weekly short term plans to suit their class or year group, showing differentiation as necessary.

4 Foundation Stage

- 4.1** We teach geography in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Geography makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

5. Assessment and Monitoring

Children are assessed in a variety of ways using the National Curriculum attainment targets. Evidence is acquired through observation, oral discussion and written tasks and will support teachers in future planning. The knowledge and understanding learning team will monitor the learning by looking at medium and short term planning and samples of children's work.

6 Resources

Resources for each Geography unit are stored in topic boxes specific to each year group or centrally in the resources room. In the library we have a good supply of geography topic books and educational software is available on the school network to support the children's individual research. Library loans are also used to support Geography topics.

7 Fieldwork

- 7.1** Fieldwork is integral to good geography teaching and we include as many opportunities as we can to involve children in practical geographical research and enquiry.
- 7.2** At Key Stage 1 we let all the children carry out an investigation into the local environment and we give them opportunities to observe and record information around the school site. At Key Stage 2 the children study the local area and we also offer them the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Dalesdown (Year 4) and Bowles (Year 6).

Reviewed: Spring 2009

Governor Signature: **Date**

Next Review Due: