



Colwich CE Primary School

Geography Curriculum Statement



God is love, so we: Learn to Love; Love to Learn; Learn for life

'The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world.' Barack Obama

Intent

Geography is the study of the world around us and at Colwich we aim to inspire a lifelong curiosity about the world, its people and the children's own personal place within it. Through memorable learning opportunities, children will master the geographical skills of fieldwork, position, direction and map work and deepen their understanding of place through studying locations, both near and far, to develop insight and contextual knowledge of globally significant places and understanding of the processes that give rise to key physical and human features of the world, along with how they bring about variation and change over time. We want our children to understand the diverse world in which we all live, exploring how we effect the world and how the world can affect us. We aim to advance our children's curiosity and a fascination of the world with lessons that provide opportunities for challenge. Wherever possible we intend to encourage a love of geography through fieldwork and on educational visits.

Colwich Geographers will have:

- An excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- An excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.
- An extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Fluency in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills and use effective analytical and presentational techniques.
- The ability to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings.
- Significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity as shown in interpretations and representations of the subject matter.
- Highly developed and frequently utilised fieldwork and other geographical skills and techniques.
- A passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there.
- The ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.

Implementation

The National curriculum organises the Geography attainment targets under four subheadings or strands:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

Our Geography curriculum has a clear progression of skills and knowledge within these four strands across the mixed year groups. It is a spiral curriculum, with essential knowledge and skills revisited with increasing complexity, allowing pupils to revise and build on their previous learning. Locational knowledge, in particular, will be reviewed in each unit to coincide with our belief that this will consolidate children's understanding of key concepts, such as scale and place. Our enquiry questions form the basis for our units, meaning that pupils gain a solid understanding of geographical knowledge and skills by applying them to answer enquiry questions. Each unit contains elements of geographical skills and fieldwork to ensure that fieldwork skills are practised as often as possible. The units follow an enquiry cycle that maps out the fieldwork process of question, observe, measure, record, and present, to reflect the elements mentioned in the National curriculum. This ensures children will learn how to decide on an area of enquiry, plan to measure data using a range of methods, capture the data and present it to a range of appropriate stakeholders in various formats. Fieldwork includes smaller opportunities on the school grounds to larger-scale visits to investigate physical and human features. Developing fieldwork skills within the school environment and revisiting them in multiple units enables pupils to consolidate their understanding of various methods. This makes fieldwork regular and accessible while giving children a thorough understanding of their locality, providing a solid foundation when comparing it with other places.

Impact

Our approach to planning and delivering Geography lessons will enable us to develop outstanding geographers that have an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like as well as an understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated. They will be curious, ask questions and debate, showing a passion for and commitment to the subject

Teachers assess children's knowledge, understanding and skills in Geography by making observations within lessons and by reviewing written evidence at the end of each lesson. Outcomes from this assessment are then used to formatively re-shape the learning journey for individuals and whole classes as necessary. From this ongoing assessment, teachers make decisions to re-teach, consolidate or extend learning in the subsequent session. Children will self-assess their work alongside the 'steps to success' and using the key geographical objectives in their 'Geography Passports'.