



Policy for Geography

Reviewed and Updated: November 2022

Date for Review: November 2023



This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Assessment Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Equalities Policy
- SEND Policy
- Homework Policy

What Geography looks like at Much Marcle C of E Primary School.

As with all of our subjects, within the geography curriculum our drivers are at the heart of everything we do. Through our geography lessons we promote:

- 1. Perseverance**
- 2. Confident Communicators**
- 3. Healthy Body, Healthy Mind**
- 4. World Citizens**

At Much Marcle Primary School, we believe that Geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. Children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. Geography is, by nature, an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. The curriculum is designed to ensure that teaching equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Intent – What are we trying to achieve?

- Children demonstrate an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- Children understand how places are interdependent and how human and physical environments are interrelated.
- Children show an extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary enabling them to speak in detail about people and places.
- Children develop the ability to enquire geographically, applying questioning skills and using effective analytical and presentational skills.
- Children can interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems



- Children apply geographical skills during fieldwork and show a real sense of curiosity about the world and the people who live there.
- Children can communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.
- Children demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.

Implementation – How is our vision translated into practice?

EYFS

Geography is taught in Nursery and Reception as an integral part of topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities in the EYFS 'Understanding of the World' section of the EYFS goals. Early years explore geographical themes in line with the EYFS framework. Children are guided to develop a sense of their physical world, as well as their community, through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Lesson Planning

Geography at Much Marcle is taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children can achieve depth in their learning. Teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each blocked topic and these are mapped across the school, ensuring that knowledge builds progressively and that children develop skills systematically.

Existing knowledge is checked at the beginning of each topic. This ensures that teaching is informed by the children's starting points and that it takes account of pupil voice, incorporating children's interests. Tasks are selected and designed to provide appropriate challenges to all learners, in line with the school's commitment to inclusion. At the end of each topic, key knowledge is reviewed by the children and rigorously checked by the teacher and consolidated as necessary. The Geography provision is also well resourced and specific resources are mapped to topics to support effective teaching and learning. The local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with extensive opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice.

Classrooms

All classrooms have a topic working wall (History and Geography). This displays the unit theme, the geographical vocabulary (which is updated and referred to during the lesson), the common, corrected Marvellous Mistakes that have been made by the children (See Marvellous Mistakes in Lesson Structure).



Lesson Structure

Each lesson will follow a specific structure

- Elicitation task (Only at the beginning of a unit)
- Flashback 4
- Teacher input – (using a range of resources from agreed schemes)
- Independent application
- Plenary

Teaching Strategies

- Ping Pong method
- My Turn Your Turn
- Reasoning embedded throughout
- All children work towards same learning objective with differing levels of support
- Learning partners
- Stem sentences

Elicitation tasks - At the beginning of a unit of work, the children complete an elicitation task. This provides the teacher with evidence of each child's understanding at the start of a sequence, indicating gaps and misconceptions. The teacher or TA may scribe for those not yet able to record their thinking.

Ping Pong – The teacher orchestrates a continuous back and forth dialogue with the children using questions, shorts task, explanations, demonstrations and discussions. This enables the teacher to vary the pace and the direction of the lesson if necessary and to continuously monitor the progress of the class.

Differentiation – Children are taught as a whole class and each child is given access to the same lesson content. Appropriate support is available for any child who might need it and there are opportunities to deepen learning through the provision of more challenging activities. No assumptions are made before the lesson about which children might need more support nor which ones will likely move on to the more difficult tasks.

Conceptual variation - Children are presented with carefully chosen examples and non-examples. Children are given time to think and discuss with their classmates and the teacher supports the class to listen to each other's ideas, to agree and disagree and to improve until we reach a consensus.

Questions - Teachers use questioning throughout every lesson to check understanding and to challenge thinking. A variety of questions are used such as:

Explain how you know? Why is that correct? Why is that incorrect? Can you prove it? Are you sure? What's the same/different about? Can you explain that? What does



your partner think? What do you notice? Where have you seen this before? What do you already know about this?

Children are expected to listen to each other's responses and may be asked to explain someone else's ideas in their own words, or if they agree/disagree etc. All responses are collected by the teacher and recorded on the board. Children are then given time to self-correct, notice mistakes and prove that their response was correct, before the correct answer is agreed upon. Children are also encouraged to ask their own questions

Stem Sentences and Geographical Vocabulary- Topic specific Stem sentences are displayed on the Working Wall. All Stem sentences are modelled by teachers and are used by the children to help make sense of the structure.

Marvellous Mistakes (MM) - The children are encouraged to experiment within geography. As part of this, taking risks is encouraged and therefore mistakes are inevitable. MMs are celebrated and the children are encouraged to identify why the mistake was made, how they can learn from it and what they can do to overcome it. Some MMs are shared with groups or the whole class as a learning point for all children. Common MMs are recorded on the topic working wall. You may see MM written next to an incorrect answer in a child's book and the child will be expected to correct the mistake as well as explaining what they did wrong.

Marking – Marking in geography follows the schools marking policy.

Assessment - Throughout the school, teachers will assess whether children are working at/above or below the expected level for their age based on their understanding and application of the content of the National Curriculum 2014. Teachers will use the statements on ScholarPack to record and support them to make an overall judgement of children's scientific ability. Progress and attainment is reported to parents through parents' evenings and end of year reports.

SEND pupils – may be supported by additional adults, different resources or differentiated activities. They may also complete additional activities outside of the geography lesson. NB: We do not label our children. We have high expectations of all children and strongly believe that all children are equally able to learn. Some may take longer to grasp concepts and may need careful scaffolding or extra time/support (guided groups, same day catch-up, additional homework, pre-teaching, intervention groups etc), but when concepts are presented in the right way all children can learn.

Challenge – Within each mixed age class, the same objective and activity is taught to all children. Higher ability and higher age group children are challenged using effective questioning (this could be written or verbal), by providing support to their learning partner and through extension questions that deepen their understanding.



Impact – What is the impact of our curriculum?

- Children are happy learners who talk enthusiastically about their learning and eager to further their progress in geography
- More consistent teaching practices that are well-known to be more effective for pupil progress long term, evident across school
- Cross-school moderation highlights the high level of challenge for all ability groups
- Teacher assessment of the depth of learning is also increasingly accurate.
- Children use a range of sources such as people, the local environment, sites, photographs, portraits, artefacts, written materials, ICT based materials, data, TV / video extracts
- Children can present their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways such as through drama, art, models, various writing styles / genre, collage, diagrams, sketches and maps
- As the children grow in confidence, they begin to pose and investigate their own questions about the world.
- Children develop a deep knowledge, understanding an appreciation of their local area and its place within the wider geographical context.

Role of the Subject Leader

1. Ensure teachers understand the requirements of the National Curriculum and support them with lesson planning ideas.
2. Lead by example by setting high standards in their own teaching.
3. Lead and signposts CPD opportunities.
4. Lead the whole school monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning in mathematics by observing lessons, modelling lessons, analysing data, conducting book scrutiny and engaging in pupil conferencing.
5. Take responsibility for managing own professional development by participating in external training, private study, engagement in educational research and reading.
6. Keep parents/carers informed about geographical issues.
7. Keep the school policy for geography under regular review.
8. To work closely with the Headteacher / SLT to further develop and monitor the developments in teaching geography.

Monitoring and Evaluation Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by:

- Headteacher
- Geography Subject Leader



- External advisors
- Colleagues from other schools

The monitoring of progress is against age related expectations so that pupils falling behind or exceeding targets are swiftly identified and intervention is then provided.

Classroom Observations

The Headteacher, Geography Subject Leader and colleagues are responsible for classroom observations and feedback to teachers, to provide professional development and develop further outstanding teaching and learning.

CPD and Staff Development

Professional discussion regularly takes place within staff meetings on the teaching of geography. The Geography Subject Leader will discuss with cluster school about potential CPD and enrichment activities to further the staffs understanding of geographical topics.