

Rationale

Geography teaches an understanding of places, people and environments which help children make sense of their surroundings and the wider world. They build an informed and balanced view of the world, an appreciation of other cultures and it enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

We aim to:

- Stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and in the variety of physical and human conditions on the earth's surface.
- Enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- Increase children's knowledge of other cultures.
- Foster a sense of wonder at the world around them.
- Have an understanding of environmental change and sustainable development
- Allow children to learn geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- Develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation

Teaching and learning styles:

Geography is a stimulating part of the curriculum. Planning ensures opportunities for a wide range of teaching and learning styles, giving all children at Kennet Valley a chance to be challenged and extended in their learning. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps to enhance their learning.

During their time at Kennet Valley, children will experience the breadth of study guided by the National Curriculum, with an emphasis on flexibility. In both key stages, Geography is taught through topics. As there are mixed aged classes, which also cross over a key stage, planning is very important to ensure that all children have the same opportunities. Progression of skills is monitored to ensure that there is clear differentiation and the topics ensure that a wide use of history skills is taught.

Geography is explored through the use of artefacts, trips and visitors. 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. Every chance is given to go out and about in the local area, which is regarded as a valuable resource to the children's learning at Kennet Valley.

Foundation Stage

Geography is taught in the foundation stage as part of Knowledge and Understanding of the World. It is planned through topic and practical activities.

Assessment for Learning

Geography is assessed at the end of each year. The national curriculum levels and skills are used to support the assessment and the children's attainment is reported back to parents at the end of the year. (See Assessment policy)

SEN

Differentiation is important for all children at Kennet Valley. Children who have needs over and above the rest of the class will be supported as necessary. This may include small group or one to one support, allowing them access to the History curriculum, (See S.E.N. policy)

Resources

Children are encouraged to use a wide range of resources, which are enhanced by books, maps, data and artefacts from the museum service. I.C.T. resources play a major part in the teaching of Geography.

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

Approved by S&C Committee Chair: June 2011
Review Date: June 2014



Monitoring and Evaluation

The geography coordinator monitors the progress of the children throughout the year, through classroom visits, talking to the children, book trawls and displays. The monitoring is fed back to the staff. Planning is collected and at the end of each topic children's work is gathered and skills checked.

Geography coordinator: Lynne Williams

Geography governor: Judith Woodget

Health and Safety

Refer to Health and Safety policy.

Equal opportunities

Refer to Equal Opportunities policy.