Geography at Bishopton Primary School

Intent

At Bishopton, we aim to inspire a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with our pupils throughout their lives. Geography helps children to understand the diverse and ever-changing world in which they live, while developing their sense of place and responsibility towards the environment.

Our geography curriculum is designed to give pupils a rich understanding of the world around them, from their local area to the wider United Kingdom and the world. Through the study of places, people, environments and geographical processes, pupils develop a secure understanding of both human and physical geography.

In accordance with the National Curriculum, our pupils develop knowledge of the United Kingdom and its regions, as well as key geographical features and locations around the world. They learn about physical features such as rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, weather and climate, alongside human geography including settlements, land use, resources and economic activity. All while developing the confidence to ask geographical questions, carry out their own enquiries and develop their geographical vocabulary to become confident geographers.

We also aim to develop a strong sense of environmental responsibility. Pupils are encouraged to consider how people interact with and affect the world around them and to think critically about how environments can be protected and sustained for future generations.

Implementation

Our geography curriculum follows the National Curriculum programmes of study and is carefully sequenced so that knowledge and geographical skills are built progressively from Early Years through to the end of Key Stage 2.

Learning begins with children developing an understanding of their immediate environment and local area before progressively extending their geographical knowledge to the wider United Kingdom and the world. Previous learning is revisited regularly so that pupils can develop a secure and connected body of geographical knowledge.

Across the curriculum, pupils study a balance of **locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography, and geographical skills and fieldwork**.

Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop knowledge of continents, countries, cities, regions and significant geographical features.
- Explore physical processes and features such as rivers, mountains, coasts, the water cycle, volcanoes and earthquakes.
- Investigate human geography, including settlements, land use, population, resources and economic activity.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to locate and investigate places.
- Develop increasingly sophisticated map-reading and geographical enquiry skills.
- Collect, record and interpret geographical data.
- Undertake fieldwork and geographical investigations in the local environment.
- Use appropriate geographical vocabulary to describe, explain and compare geographical features and processes.
- Make connections between places, people and environments.
- Communicate geographical understanding through discussion, writing, maps, diagrams, data and presentations.

Fieldwork and first-hand experiences are an important part of our geography curriculum. Wherever possible, pupils investigate geographical questions within the school grounds and local area, allowing them to apply classroom learning to real-world contexts.

Teachers use a range of engaging approaches, including practical activities, maps, photographs, data, fieldwork, digital resources and discussion. Lessons are adapted to ensure that all pupils can access the curriculum, while providing opportunities for children to deepen and extend their geographical thinking.

Key geographical vocabulary is explicitly taught and revisited throughout each unit. This enables pupils to develop the language needed to describe, explain and evaluate geographical phenomena with increasing precision.

Impact

Our geography curriculum enables pupils to develop a secure and meaningful understanding of the world and their place within it. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have developed a strong foundation of geographical knowledge alongside the skills required to investigate and understand the world independently.

Pupils will be able to:

- Demonstrate a secure knowledge of significant places, geographical features and locations.
- Explain a range of physical and human geographical processes.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping confidently.
- Collect, analyse and communicate geographical information.
- Apply geographical vocabulary accurately.
- Ask and answer geographical questions using evidence.
- Make comparisons and connections between different places and environments.
- Use fieldwork to investigate their local area and wider geographical questions.
- Recognise how people and environments are interconnected.
- Demonstrate curiosity about the world and an increasing awareness of their responsibility towards the environment.

We assess pupils' understanding through questioning, discussion, practical activities, fieldwork, written work, geographical investigations and the application of knowledge and skills. Assessment is used to identify misconceptions, address gaps and inform future teaching.

Ultimately, we want every child to leave our school as a **confident, curious and knowledgeable young geographer**, equipped with the knowledge, vocabulary and skills to make sense of the world around them and to appreciate their role within it.