



The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools



Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

A PLACE TO LEARN, LOVE & GROW

Geography Policy

"The study of Geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." - Barack Obama.

Introduction

'A high quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.' (National Curriculum, 2014)

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, we believe that a high-quality, and engaging, geography curriculum will inspire children to explore and develop a deeper understanding of both natural and human aspects of the world. We endeavour to continuously develop the children's geographical knowledge and understanding to ensure that they have the skills needed to explore and appreciate the world around them.

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area, and they 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 recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools follows the national curriculum and Early Years Framework to ensure knowledge; skills and understanding are taught throughout all key stages. The school has created its own long and medium term planning which details the topics, objectives, knowledge, skills and vocabulary which should be covered. Through this planning, the national curriculum breath of study for history is fully covered.

Our core aims are to provide teaching and learning opportunities through the geography curriculum that empowers the children to be:

ASPIRATIONAL
RESPECTFUL
RESILIENT

We believe that by having these three aims at the root, will equip our pupils to **LIVE FRUITFUL LIVES** and to **LEARN, LOVE and GROW**.

Curriculum Intent

Aims of the geography curriculum

By the time the children leave The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, they will be competent and skilled geographers. Our aims in the teaching of geography are:

- To enable children to gain knowledge and understanding and a curiosity of the geographical nature of their immediate local area
- to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world and make connections and comparisons with the local community;
- 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 multicultural 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 in children a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem-solving, ICT, investigation, and that of presenting their conclusions in the most appropriate way
- to develop the cross-curricular use of geography in all subjects.

Teachers will ensure teaching of geography has the federation's Christian ethos and values at its root.

Implementation

Effective learning

We acknowledge that children learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them most effectively. We take into account the different ways that children learn when planning and teaching in order to ensure all children access a full and varied curriculum.

We believe in whole-class teaching methods, and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. 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, statistics, graphs, pictures and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning. Children take part in role-play and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem, or use of the Internet to investigate a current issue.

Effective Teaching

We aim to develop curiosity of the world and a love of geography, both inside and outside the classroom. We provide children with hands on experience of their local area, allowing them to implement and continue to develop their geographical skills and knowledge.

Each geography topic is linked to a big question to be used as a line of enquiry to ignite curiosity about the world around them, this may also ignite additional questions from the children to explore during geography themes.

Planning ensures all children's needs and abilities are catered for within their year groups. Planning ensures that geography lessons are knowledge rich and an emphasis is placed on pupils, 'knowing more and remembering more.' This is achieved by planning a sequence of carefully planned sessions that progressively grow pupils' geographical knowledge alongside using geography skills. Planning specifies prior knowledge and teachers ensure children's prior knowledge is built up. Over the course of studying geography at The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools, teaching is designed to help pupils remember long term the geographical content they have been taught.

Vocabulary

The children at The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools are encouraged to *think and talk like geographers* by being taught key vocabulary, modelled by the teacher.

Enrichment Opportunities

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.

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 do a study of the local area. We also offer them the opportunity to take part in a residential visit e.g. Marrick Priory, East Barnby.

Trips or visitors are planned to complement topics studied and will be scheduled to have maximum impact on learning. Visits are planned to enhance learning and give hands on activity. People with an interest, or expertise, in a particular topic or area of geography could be invited into school to work with the children. These might be parents, grandparents, other family members, neighbours or representatives of the local community.

Teachers may plan enrichment days to provide an opportunity for pupil to study a topic in more details for the day, giving the opportunity to develop additional skills such as team work, and encouraging them to take part in activities and challenges that are different to their normal everyday lessons.

Children will also learn about and take part in geography related events when appropriate, e.g. COP26, Earth Day.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Geography makes a significant contribution to the development of each child's knowledge and understanding of the world, through activities such as collecting postcards from different places, singing songs from around the world, or investigating what makes a 'good' playground. Adults will work alongside children to extend their learning. Learning will be documented in a variety of ways such as drawings, paintings, tables of results, digital photographs.

Resources

Children will have opportunities to use a range of geography equipment, which the children use to gather weather data, and a set of atlases for both key stages. They are given instructions in the safe and considerate use of these items. All equipment necessary will be accessible to children.

High Quality Texts

All classrooms have access to a range of high quality fiction and non-fiction books specific to the geography topics being taught.

Digital Learning

The use of technology to support and enhance pupils' learning is a high priority in school. Information and Communication Technology enhances our teaching of geography, wherever appropriate, in each key stage. Children use ICT to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work. They can research information through the Internet. We also arrange for the children to communicate with pupils in other schools and we offer children the opportunity to use the digital camera.

Health and Safety

We must obviously be alert to any possible dangers when working in school. It is very important that children are aware of the safe handling and storage of any tools and equipment. Risk assessments are carried out prior to any visits or visitors attending the school.

Equal Opportunities and Special Education Needs and Inclusion

All children are given opportunities to access the National Curriculum requirement. All children regardless of ability, ethnicity, religion or gender, will be given equal opportunity to access all aspects of the geography curriculum. Any child experiencing difficulty in accessing part, or all, of the curriculum, will be supported with the time, materials and equipment to access the activity at their own level where this is practically possible. Planning, resources and displays will reflect positive images of all communities represented in our society.

British Values and Geography

We aim to provide children with a fascination of the world they live in and encourage children to be good, active citizens of Britain. The studies of their local areas encourage children to be proud of their culture and heritage and gain an understanding and mutual respect of the multi-cultural society in which they live. The Geography curriculum enables children to learn more about the countries of the world, including their own. It is through these studies that children learn about democracy and the impact the decisions made by those in power have on specific places. This includes numbers of hospitals in cities, parks and green spaces and also the impact that a rising population has on our world. Individual liberty is taught and encouraged by teaching children about the environment and how they can make a difference in protecting our world. Through completing fieldwork activities and river studies, children can see the effect that humans are having on our planet and can be empowered to make a change - even if they are standing away from the crowd.

Impact

Assessment for Learning

At The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and that progress is being made, this is done in a range of way including quizzes to check retention of knowledge over-time, use of exhibitions to parent community to showcase the work they have done . Teachers take time to review pupil knowledge, and take the time to use these assessments to inform and adapt future planning. Opportunities for pupils to make connections to deepen understanding is central to learning and this is outlined in our curriculum maps for each subject.

Feedback is given to the children as soon as possible, and marking work will be guided by the school's Marking Policy.

Teacher's update the assessment tracker following a geography topic (at least termly) to record progress and objectives covered.

Subject Leaders monitoring

The subject leader reviews standards and monitor the impact of the curriculum provision whilst also ensuring training and resources are up to date.

Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review the school geography policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, pupil needs, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school