

# The Whitchurch CE Federation

## The Independent Me – Geography

*The whole of life is coming to terms with yourself and the natural world. Why are you here? How do you fit in? What's it all about?'*

*Sir David Attenborough.*

### Intent

At The Whitchurch CE Federation our Geography curriculum is designed to help pupils to become successful contributors to their local and global community. Our aim is to inspire children to develop a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, a curiosity that will remain with them for life; to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive, as well as transferable, throughout their time at The Whitchurch CE Federation and also to their further education and beyond.

Our teaching will allow our children to investigate a range of places, locally and globally to develop their knowledge of places, people, and natural and human environments. We will equip our children with the geographical skills that will enable them to communicate their findings and geographical understanding to a range of audiences.

Through our curriculum, we will develop the following characteristics in our children:

- 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

In Early Years children experience learning through the educational programme, Understanding the world. Children are guided to make sense of their physical world and their community. Children are provided with plenty of time to engage in 'exploration' throughout the variety of experiences carefully planned to engage and challenge them. The curriculum is planned for the inside and outside classrooms and equal importance is given to learning in both areas.

Geography across KS1 and KS2 is taught in blocks throughout the year as part of our Independent Me driver. Children explore key concepts that are repeated across the year groups so pupils can gradually increase their understanding of them and achieve depth in their learning. Key knowledge and skills are mapped across the federation ensuring that knowledge builds progressively and children develop skills systematically.

The key concepts for our Geography curriculum are:

- Investigate places
- Investigate patterns
- Communicate geographically

The Forest School resource and the local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with extensive opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice.

## Impact

The impact of the Geography curriculum is monitored in several ways to ensure we offer a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge.

Pupils in EYFS are assessed against the Early Learning Goals People, Culture and Communities and The Natural World. At the end of each key phase (KS1/LKS2 and UKS2), assessment is made against the Learning Goal outcomes for Geography.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Work scrutiny
- Opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
- Marking of written work in books.
- Learning walks and classroom displays also inform the quality of learning and understanding that pupils have gained.

As children progress throughout the school, they develop a deep knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their local area and its place within the wider geographical context. Regular visits and visitors provide further relevant and contextual learning.

We hope that all pupils feel encouraged, passionate and remain curious about the world.