



Geography at Hyde Park Junior School



Intent

At Hyde Park Junior School, we believe that geography, and geographical awareness, is a vital part of children's education. It provides them with opportunities to develop a range of knowledge about their own place in the world, as

well as the world at large. Geography contributes to children's personal development in critical thinking and awareness of global issues. Moreover, it enables pupils to develop a natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them and therefore links strongly to our school values. The focus is in developing geographical knowledge, both

pertaining to the children's local area and also on a global scale, linking to their learning across other subject areas and working collaboratively with the Infant School to ensure progression across the Key Stages.

The geography curriculum at Hyde Park Junior School, aligned with the National Curriculum, will develop children's critical thinking by encouraging them to question sources of information and teaching them the difference between primary and secondary sources of evidence. Children will develop their understanding of geography with effective teaching and carefully throughout sequences of lessons and experiences.

Understanding of specific vocabulary relating to physical geography, as well as human geographical features such as patterns of invasion and settling, will allow children to reach their full potential in this area.



Implementation

At Hyde Park Junior school, whilst working collaboratively with the Infant School, we strive to give children a sense of their place in the world, as well as an awareness of the world at large. A sense of one's place within the global community is very important both to children's education, as well as to their development. Geography lessons focus on learning about how their local area pertains to topics learnt in other areas of the curriculum, for example studying the Roman ruins in Exeter as part of the History topic.

As well as teaching children physical and human geographical features of our planet, and encouraging their critical thinking through examining and questioning primary and secondary sources, the geography curriculum at Hyde Park

Junior School also teaches children about important issues affecting our world, such as the impact of climate change, the prevalence of palm oils in so many of our products, the plight of refugees around the world and the ongoing effects of deforestation, to name but a few. This makes children aware of these issues and their significance, as well as teaching that geography is alive and dynamic subject pertaining to many important global issues that affect all of our lives. This is reinforced by giving children practical, hands-on experience of geography and geographical issues through field work, as

well as a residential trip in Year 6. Monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the planning, teaching and learning will be conducted by the subject leader alongside members of the SLT and will take various forms, such as: book looks, scrutiny of planning, learning walks and pupil voice questionnaires, with the main focus being that children will acquire more knowledge and retain more knowledge.



Impact



Progress

The pupil's knowledge of geographical issues and physical and human features of geography is assessed against their completion of the topics being studied, planned carefully across both the Infant and Junior school, whilst the development of their curiosity and fascination about the world will be inspired by evidence based learning and practical experience, which are underpinned by National Curriculum objectives.

Children will examine and analyse evidence, develop their knowledge of their own area and the world beyond, learn about environmental and geographical issues affecting their day to day lives and receive practical, hands-on experience of geography in the community, with the aim of developing their knowledge of their own location alongside their sense of themselves as global citizens.

Our curriculum allows for children to review previous learning and add to their knowledge through a variety of topics through coherently sequenced lessons, learning experiences and varied activities/tasks. The collaborative working between the Infant and Junior schools enables a clear progression of vocabulary, skills and knowledge for our children. Children's progression in geography will be monitored closely through planning, book scrutiny, lesson observations, learning walks and discussions with pupils.



Cross Curricular Links

Geography is closely linked to History, so knowledge of our local area and global knowledge in general will be pertinent to learning in that area. There is also a connection to music, and art, i.e. knowing where composers of key pieces came from.

It additionally links to Religious Studies through discovering where different world religions originated, and modern foreign languages for the same reason.



Local Link

At Hyde Park Junior school we believe that it is important, wherever possible to link to our locality and community. Our school is located near many places of geographical and historical significance, so we are fortunate to be able to use this to link our local area into children's learning across other subjects, eg. Dartmoor, coastline, rivers and advantageous links with The Box.



