

Geography Curriculum Statement 2021 - 2022

Intent

A high quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. At Alverton, we aim to develop children's knowledge of diverse places, their people, resources and natural and human environments and to impart a deep understanding of the key physical and human processes that have shaped - and continue to shape - the planet we inhabit. We want our children to understand the interrelations between physical and human processes in shaping the world we live in and to give them a voice in confronting the environmental challenges society faces. Following Covid-19, some 'gaps' in learning have inevitably appeared for some children in discrete areas of the curriculum. The assessment of prior learning will therefore be prioritised at the start of each unit to allow any gaps to be identified and filled.

Implementation

Our geography curriculum has been planned and mapped to ensure that children develop a coherent understanding of the interconnected physical and human processes that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped and have changed over time. Learning in geography begins in the EYFS, where children explore their environment through their immediate surroundings. Children are encouraged to ask questions about their environment, make comments and offer their own suggestions when considering similarities and differences and the impact they themselves can have on their environment for better or worse. Through Key Stages 1 and 2, units of learning are sequenced to build a deepening understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes in the formation of landscapes and environments at local, national and global scales. Geographical skills are progressively developed, including the collection of data through fieldwork, the interpretation of different sources of geographical information and map work. Pupils are also taught how to interpret and communicate geographical information. Geography at Alverton is taught as a discipline in its own right but it is also deeply embedded in our cross-curricular topic work as we believe that learning in geography has strong links to other areas of the curriculum that help to enrich geographical understanding. Children at Alverton will become increasingly aware of the geography of the local environment and of significant human and physical features in the wider world as well as current geographical issues and dilemmas. Our curriculum is fully inclusive for all and we ensure all children have the same entitlement to a broad curriculum by making adaptations where needed.

Impact

The study of geography at Alverton helps children to understand how and why places are as they are, how they have changed over time and how they are still changing. Through the course of their learning, children develop geographical knowledge, skills and understanding that prepare them well for Key Stage 3. More importantly, we believe that through geography we encourage pupils to develop responsible attitudes and values and to think about how they themselves can influence change by becoming environmentally-aware citizens. This has been evident in many topic outcomes. For example, Key Stage 1 have created a beautiful wildlife garden on our field and have also fundraised with the WWF in raising awareness about the plight of endangered animals. Their work earned them an invitation to the Royal Cornwall Show as WWF ambassadors to meet Prince Charles. Lower Key Stage 2 pupils held an exhibition in conjunction with Plastic Free Penzance where the children showcased their term's work and worked with local organisations to

spread the message about single-use plastic with the community. Our work on this project was recognised locally at the Plastic Free Penzance award ceremony. Upper Key Stage 2 focused on the problems many developing countries experience with a lack of water. They found out about the impact having insufficient, clean water has on people's lives before organising a fundraising event to twin their school toilets with toilet blocks in Malawi and Uganda.