

What does geography look like at Great Doddington Primary School?

Intent

The intention of the geography curriculum at Great Doddington Primary School is to inspire children's curiosity and interest to explore the world that we live in and its people, which aims to ignite a love of learning. We intend to equip children with geographical skills to develop their knowledge through studying places, people and natural and human environments. This seeks to deepen the understanding of the Earth's human and physical forms and processes. Geography, by nature, is an investigative subject. Through our teaching, we intend to provoke thought, questions and to encourage children to discover answers to their own questions through exploration and research to enable them to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of the world and their place in it.

Implementation

In order to foster children's curiosity about the world, interest and creativity, we are enthusiastic about geography and encourage children to explore and ask questions. At Great Doddington Primary School, in Key Stage 1, geography is taught through a skills based curriculum. We enable teachers' autonomy to use the National Curriculum to select objectives and tailor teaching and learning to meet the needs and interests of the children in their class. By the end of Year Two, it is expected that the children will have developed their knowledge and understanding of all of the skills set out in Key Stage One. In Key Stage Two, due to mixed classes, topic teaching is used to progress children's knowledge and skills. Each class has a long-term plan with two to three geography topics, which are to be covered over the year. Topics will alternate with history. Geography will be linked into some history topics, where appropriate, to develop children's knowledge and understanding. It will also ensure all areas of the curriculum are covered in depth. Teachers are encouraged to consider opportunities available to use the school grounds and the local area for fieldwork to enable children to base learning on first hand experiences to enhance teaching and learning in geography.

Impact

Children will have developed the geographical knowledge and skills to help them explore, navigate and understand the world around them and their place in it. Children's knowledge and skills will develop progressively as they move through the school, not only to enable them to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum but to prepare them to become competent geographers in secondary education.

Principles of learning in geography:

At Great Doddington, we believe that geography is an integral part of the curriculum and all learning across the school. Our children are able to recall key knowledge about their local area, the UK, Europe and the world. We have planned our units of work so that key geographical skills and knowledge are built upon from EYFS to Year 6. These are taught through topics to link ideas, but the children should be aware that they are learning 'geography' within other subjects e.g., in science, maths and history. The units of work have been planned to be engaging, imaginative and creative for the children. The units we teach are progressive and mapped-out so that the pitch and challenge of higher-level geography skills are relevant to each year group.

Careful thought has gone into how we are able to include field studies and local geography. As we have planned the units of work ourselves, we can ensure that we make provision for targeted concepts that are important to learn and will also challenge the children. These can be fulfilled in the local area and draw on the vast resources available to us here in Great Doddington and close by in Summer Leys.

Throughout the topic, specific geographical skills and knowledge are built up and practised. They are revisited throughout the academic year to ensure this learning is retained. Teachers are clear about the specific geographical terms that are to be used and taught in each year group.