



Geography Curriculum at Bletchingley Village Primary School and Nursery

Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent
<p>At Bletchingley, we are committed to providing pupils with the foundations to better understand the wider world around them, as well as their place in it. We aim to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to better understand our rapidly changing world and face the ever growing challenges that we face in our societies both locally and globally.</p> <p>We are very lucky to have fantastic outdoor space and have a dedicated forest school area, which is accessed by all children throughout their time at Bletchingley. This provides children with a fantastic chance to nurture their understanding of the outdoors and develop new skills.</p> <p>Our pupils are encouraged to recognise that they have a voice and to use it confidently to debate topics that they feel passionate about e.g. deforestation. We aim to encourage them to become resourceful, active citizens who will have the skills to contribute to and improve the world around them. We have a school Council and a school Eco Council, that work with staff to lead our sustainability drive in school.</p> <p>We follow the Kapow Primary Curriculum for Geography. This aims to enable pupils to meet the end of key stage attainment targets in the National curriculum.</p> <p>Our intent when teaching Geography, is to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inspire pupils’ curiosity and fascination about the world and people within it; ▪ Promote pupils’ interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments; ▪ Help pupils have a better understanding of their locality, the wider world and phenomena, such as the weather and seasons. ▪ Make cohesive links and develop knowledge and skills, that are transferable across the curriculum. ▪ Help pupils to develop the confidence to question and observe places, measure and record necessary data in various ways, and analyse and present their findings. ▪ Provide pupils with a growing understanding of geographical concepts, terms and vocabulary.
Implementation
<p>We use Kapow as the basis of our Geography curriculum. Geography is taught through discrete lessons, in half termly blocks throughout the year, but may also be covered through cross-curricular links when appropriate. Within our long term plans, it is clearly identified when Geography is a focus subject. This is to enable an in-depth study of the subject, with time to embed new knowledge and skills and build on these steadily.</p> <p>Each unit centres around an enquiry question, which is open-ended with no preconceived answers and therefore genuinely purposeful and engaging for pupils. In attempting to answer them, children learn how to collect, interpret and represent data using geographical methodologies and make informed decisions by applying their geographical knowledge. Units follow an enquiry cycle that maps out the fieldwork process of question, observe, measure, record, and present, to reflect the elements mentioned in the National curriculum.</p> <p>To support children to know more and remember more, there are regular opportunities to review and recall learning from previous lessons, as well as previous units of study, in the current academic year, as well as previous years.</p> <p>In the Early Years, Geography skills and knowledge are taught through Understanding the World- this may be discrete teaching sessions or during continuous provision. The teaching points covered link to the overarching half</p>

termly theme e.g. when learning about animals and their habitats, children will have the chance to explore the continents and oceans of the world. This leads on to Geography learning in the Key Stage One National Curriculum.

We have an inclusive approach to learning, so a range of teaching styles will be used throughout each topic e.g. drama- hot-seating, role-play, to ensure participation and progress for all. Children will have opportunities to practise geographical skills using a range of methods and resources, such as maps, atlases, digital technologies, making the subject real and meaningful.

At Bletchingley, we provide opportunities for fieldwork as regularly as possible, as the school's locality is perfect for this! When it is not possible to visit places (another country for example!) we use technology to explore the world such as Google Earth! Visiting the nature garden, compost bins, Forest School area and allotments all within the school grounds, gives our children a solid understanding of the importance of sustainability and looking after our world.

Fieldwork includes smaller opportunities on the school grounds to larger-scale visits to investigate physical and human features. Developing fieldwork skills within the school environment and revisiting them in multiple units, enables pupils to consolidate their understanding of various methods. Utilising our school grounds, makes fieldwork regular and accessible while giving children a thorough understanding of their locality, providing a solid foundation when comparing it with other places.

School trips are provided when appropriate, to give first-hand experiences, which enhance children's understanding of the world beyond their locality. For example, year 5 visit Brighton Sealife Centre to explore the question "Why do oceans matter?", learning about both positive and negative impacts that humans can have on the World's oceans. Strong subject knowledge is vital for staff to deliver a highly effective and robust Geography curriculum. Each unit of lessons on Kapow includes multiple teacher videos to develop subject knowledge and support CPD.

Impact

At Bletchingley, we aim to shape children into curious and inspired geographers with respect and appreciation for the world around them. Bletchingley pupils should leave school equipped with a range of skills and knowledge to enable them to study Geography with confidence at Key Stage 3. They will have a broad understanding of how their locality sits within the country, the continent and the world. Pupils will think like geographers, have a passion for and commitment for the subject and a real sense of curiosity and passion, to find out about the world around them and how to help protect it for the future.

The impact of our Geography curriculum is measured in a variety of ways: questioning during lesson time, marking children's written work, listening to child-led discussion, interviewing pupils across the school about their learning, book looks and using images/videos of children's practical learning. Impact of Kapow's Geography Curriculum, can be monitored through both formative and summative assessment opportunities. Each lesson includes guidance to support teachers in assessing pupils against the learning objectives. Furthermore, each unit has a unit quiz and knowledge catcher, which teachers use at the start and/or end of the unit to assess children's understanding.

By end of the Geography curriculum at Bletchingley, our children will...

- Have a wider vocabulary of geographical terms
- Discover more about the world, through reading, travel or the media
- Know that they can use their voice to express themselves and their opinions
- Develop their growing knowledge of the world- where places are, what places are like
- Develop their understanding of the world and their place within it
- Develop their geographical skills, such as, evaluation, creativity, problem solving and enquiry
- Develop their understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.