



Longhill Primary School

History Policy



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This policy should be read in conjunction with the Marking Policy

Longhill Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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1. Aims & Objectives.

The aim of geography teaching at Longhill Primary School is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the world around them.

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area, and they compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps, and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem-solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world, and enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

Our objectives in the teaching of geography are:

- to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- to increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country;
- to allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- to enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- to encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development, and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- to develop in children a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem-solving, ICT, investigation, and that of presenting their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

2. Teaching and Learning Style

At Longhill Primary School we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We teach a mixture of both whole-class teaching methods, and we combine these with Continuous Provision activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning; including iPads. Children take part in role-play and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class. They conduct activities in groups as well as individually, to learn collaboratively and apply their knowledge. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem, use of the Internet to investigate a current issue or use our local environment as a teaching and learning tool.

At Longhill Primary we recognise the fact that there are children of widely different geographical abilities in all classes, and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- grouping children by ability in the room, and setting different tasks to each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity, according to the ability of the child;
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individual children or groups of children.
- Grouping the children in mixed ability groups, allowing the children to learn from each other's knowledge and experience.

The school will create a link with a school in a contrasting locality. Once established, wherever possible, this link is to be used to reinforce and extend learning opportunities in geography.

3. Geography Curriculum Planning

Geography is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. We have adapted the new national scheme to the local circumstances of our school and the needs, interests and aspirations of our children, i.e. we make use of the local environment in our fieldwork and we also choose a locality where the human activities and physical features provide a contrast to those that predominate in our own immediate area. In Year 5, for example, when exploring an environmental issue, children focus on a local wood. In Year 4, the children will investigate the town which our future link school in India is in.

We ensure that there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and, using a skills progression, we ensure that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

Our curriculum planning in geography is in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). Our long-term plan maps the geography topics studied in each term during each key stage. The subject leader devises this plan in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group.

In order to enable the children to explore geographical themes in depth, geography is 'blocked'. In KS1 and KS2, geography forms the key focus of a project for at least one project each year. In most year groups, there is either a further geography based project or a joint history/geography based project. The subject leader keeps and reviews plans on a regular basis. Because we have some mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year rotation cycle. By so doing, we ensure that children have complete coverage of the National Curriculum, but do not have to repeat topics. This also enables teachers to plan collaboratively.

Each project focuses on an element of the geography curriculum outlined in the National Curriculum e.g. a foreign locality study, rivers, environmental issues etc. Teachers then ensure the appropriate skills are covered as outlined in the school's skills progression for geography. Teachers also devise a 'stimulus' which results in a 'challenge' for the end of each project e.g. a class museum, a play, an assembly, a display. These outcomes are monitored by the subject leader and curriculum co-ordinator to ensure a range of opportunities are covered. It also offers the children a real life context in which to relate their learning. Teachers are also expected to arrange a trip and/or visitor for each project which should be integral to the work covered.

Each class teacher creates a plan for each lesson. These plans list specific learning objectives, expected outcomes and success criteria for each lesson. The class teacher keeps these individual plans, and often discusses them with the geography subject leader on an informal basis.

4. The Foundation Stage

We teach geography in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Geography makes a significant contribution to the development of each child's knowledge and understanding of the world, through activities such as collecting postcards from different places, singing songs from around the world, or investigating what makes a 'good' playground.

5. The Contribution of Geography to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas

Longhill Primary School has devised an integrated curriculum which actively seeks to promote links between subjects. History and Geography lie at the heart of our integrated curriculum. We believe that learning is most meaningful to the children when they are able to make links between subjects and explore themes in depth. Our curriculum map ensures that while discrete geography skills are covered, projects are intrinsically cross-curricular. Thus, while each geography-based project will cover the skills, knowledge and understanding outlined in the geography programme of study, the outcome of the project will be cross-curricular in nature.

Our proposed link with a school in a contrasting locality will provide an opportunity for geographical skills to be developed in other areas of the curriculum. For example, when learning about food and healthy eating as part of their science work in KS2, pupils compare and contrast food in India and the UK.

English

Geography makes a significant contribution to the teaching of English in our school because it actively promotes the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. We ensure that, through the Power of Reading strategy, some of the

fiction and non-fiction texts that we use during the teaching of literacy are geographical in nature. At Key Stage 2, we organise debates on environmental issues, because we believe that these develop speaking and listening skills. Reports, letters and recording information will all develop children's writing ability. We also use environmental issues as a way of developing the children's writing ability, by asking them to record information and write reports and letters.

Mathematics

The teaching of geography in our school contributes to children's mathematical understanding in a variety of ways. We teach the children how to represent objects with maps and use compass points for explaining direction. The children study space, scale and distance, and they learn how to use four- and six-figure grid references. They also use graphs to explore, analyse and illustrate a variety of data.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship. Firstly, the subject matter lends itself to raising matters of citizenship and social welfare. For example, children study the way in which people recycle material, and how environments are changed for better or for worse. Secondly, the nature of the subject means that children have the opportunity to take part in debates and discussions. We allow them to organise campaigns on matters of concern to them, such as helping poor or homeless people. Thus, geography in our school promotes the concept of positive citizenship.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)

We offer children in our school many opportunities to examine the fundamental questions in life through the medium of geography. For example, their work on the changing landscape and environmental issues leads children to ask questions about the evolution of the planet. We encourage the children to reflect on the impact of mankind on our world, and we introduce the concept of 'stewardship' in relation to sustainable development. Through teaching about contrasting localities, we enable the children to learn about inequality and injustice in the world. We help children to develop their knowledge and understanding of different cultures, so that they learn to avoid stereotyping other people, and acquire a positive attitude towards others. We help contribute to the children's social development by teaching them about how society works to resolve difficult issues of economic development. Geography contributes to the children's appreciation of what is right and wrong by raising many moral questions during the programme of study.

Geography and ICT

Information and communication technology enhances our teaching of geography, wherever appropriate, in each key stage. This more than meets the statutory

requirement for children to use ICT as part of their geography work in Key Stage 2. Children use ICT to enhance their skills in data handling (mountain, climate, population or river data) and in presenting written work. They research information through the Internet and libraries of digital images (aerial photographs, for example). We also arrange for the children to communicate with pupils in other schools and countries via e-mail, and we offer children the opportunity to use the digi and flip cams. Digital mapping allows children to create their own overlay maps of local features. Detective role-play software teaches them geographical facts incidentally. All staff have access to google earth on their lap tops.

Geography and inclusion

At Longhill Primary School, we teach geography to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Geography implements the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our geography teaching, we provide learning opportunities that match the needs of children with learning difficulties, and we take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate policies: Special Educational Needs; Disability Discrimination; Gifted and Talented Children; English as an Additional Language (EAL).

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors - classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, differentiation - so that we can take some additional or different actions to enable the child to learn more effectively. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels. This helps to ensure that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

Intervention through School Action and School Action Plus will lead to the creation of an IEP for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to geography.

We enable all pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning geography. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, such as a visit to a river, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils. We also ensure that the facilities at the location of the activity supports our children's needs through visits and/or enquiry.

6. Assessment for Learning

Children demonstrate their ability in geography in a variety of different ways. Younger children might, for example, dress up in costumes from different parts

of the world, whilst older pupils might produce a PowerPoint presentation based on their investigations of a local river. Teachers will assess children's work by making informal judgements during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress. Older children are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work.

We assess work in geography by making informal judgements as we observe the children during lessons. Once the children complete a piece of work, we mark and comment, as necessary. We use the traffic light system to allow the children to self mark their work based on the learning objective and success criteria. Once they complete a whole unit of work, we make a summary judgement of the work of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum levels of attainment.

The subject leader keeps samples of the children's work in a portfolio which shows the expected level of achievement in geography in each year of the school.

7. Resources

We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all the geography units. We keep these resources in a central store, where there is a box of equipment for each unit of work. We also keep a collection of geography equipment which the children use to gather weather data, and a set of atlases for both key stages. In the library, we have a good supply of geography topic books and a range of educational software to support the children's individual research. Additional educational websites are also used to enhance the children's access to geographical learning.

8. Fieldwork

Fieldwork is integral to good geography teaching, and we include as many opportunities as we can to involve children in practical geographical research and enquiry.

At Key Stage 1, we let all the children carry out an investigation into the local environment, and we give them opportunities to observe and record information around the school site. At Key Stage 2, the children do a study of the local area. We also offer them the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to a geographical activity site (e.g. Robinwood).

For health and safety issues regarding fieldwork, our school follows the guidance contained in its policies on Off-Site Visits and on Health and Safety.

9. Monitoring and review

Longhill Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The coordination and planning of the geography curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in geography and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject;
- gives the headteacher an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in geography and indicates areas for further improvement;
- uses specially allocated regular management time to review evidence of the children's work, and to observe geography lessons across the school.

10. Every Child Matters School Policy Statement

Every pupil with additional needs in this inclusive school has an entitlement to fulfil his/her optimum potential. This is achieved by ensuring the well-being of all pupils in relation to: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving social and economic well-being.

These well-being outcomes are embraced in every aspect of school life: personalised teaching and learning approaches; access to ICT across the curriculum; flexible learning pathways and out-of-hours learning activities; support for emotional well-being; flexible timetables; assessment for learning which engages pupils in having a say about their progress and additional provision; and partnership with parents/carers, other schools, the local community and with practitioners from health, education and social services providing 'wrap around' care and personalised services.