

## **Bosvigo Geography Policy**

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Through Geography, children learn about their local area, and compare their own lives in Cornwall with those in other regions in the United Kingdom and the wider world.

At Bosvigo, we use an enquiry-based approach to promote independent learning and use questioning to focus on specific geographical skills, knowledge and understanding. Children learn how to draw and interpret maps, and 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 also motivates children to find out about the physical world, and enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future.

### **Aims**

To show a curiosity about the world and the people who live there, and an understanding of why Geography matters.

To care about the environment, and understand their role in living in balance with it.

To have a core of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.

To question, collect data, analyse and present findings, based on a range of sources of geographical information.

To express well balanced opinions, based on sound knowledge and understanding about contemporary issues in society and the environment, both locally and globally.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Subject Leader**

The Subject Leader collaborates with the International Coordinator and Leader of Outdoor Education to keep the profile of geography high. The Subject Leader is responsible for seeking opportunities for CPD for her/himself and colleagues, attending the termly Cluster network meetings for the Humanities. S/he offers support and advice, ensuring that resources are appropriate, updated and well maintained, monitoring planning and the teaching and learning of Geography, collecting evidence in the form of levels and examples of children's learning, reviewing and updating the Geography policy and scheme of work and informing Governors of developments.

### **Teaching and Learning for Continuity and Progression**

Geography is taught by class teachers who collaborate within Phase Teams to jointly plan and share effective practice. The Scheme of Work for Geography follows a 2 year rolling programme which ensures that the relevant areas of study consolidate previous learning and teach new skills. Key Stages 1 and 2 have adapted the National Curriculum Programme of Study to make sure that a range of local, national and international geographical issues are studied to motivate and inspire all age groups. Skills are checked to provide clear learning targets and accurate levelled assessment for each lesson. Foundation Stage classes follow guidelines set out in the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

### **Cross-Curricular Opportunities**

Geography makes an important contribution and offers a stimulating context for the development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. In History and RE, in particular geographical knowledge is essential in order to place events and themes in context. We actively seek to link Geography with other subjects, and share this approach through the Learning

Coverage Grid which is sent home each term. Geography is especially prominent in guided reading texts, writing genres in Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Art and Design Technology. Teachers engage children by using topical global examples of geography in assemblies which contribute significantly to the teaching of personal, social, citizenship and health education. Children discover how to be active citizens in a sustainable society by learning how laws are made and changed, and how to recognise and challenge stereotypes. They also learn how the world is interdependent and recognise their own role in creating the society of the future.

### **Community Links**

Being located in the heart of the city of Truro, Bosvigo is within easy reach of local services. Visits from personnel and visits to these services are used to reinforce pupils' geographical knowledge and understanding. The school grounds have been developed to provide a range of areas for specific geographical educational activities, e.g. a large field, a pond, a global garden, chicken run and allotments.

Regular fieldwork gives children the power of learning directly from particular physical and human environments, and residential experiences play an important role in providing additional first hand fieldwork. Fieldwork is an integral part of the schemes of work with activities which include diverse landscapes and varied locations within Cornwall, nationally and overseas. Bosvigo School is recognised as an International School and is in the process of developing links with schools and communities in different countries.

### **Assessment, Record Keeping & Reporting**

Assessment is carried out through observation, talking to the children about their learning and assessing children's recorded learning. Evidence for assessment will come in a range of formats, e.g. photo of a visit or event, recount, model, drawing and caption, map, filmed interview, survey and graph. Children use Assessment for Learning strategies to evaluate their own understanding. Geography is reported annually to parents as grades describing academic attainment and effort.

### **Inclusion**

All children have equal access to the Geography curriculum in line with the School's Equal Opportunities Policy, Special Needs Policy and Racial Equality Policy. Teachers provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils by setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupils' diverse learning, religious and cultural needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils. If necessary, the Individual Needs Coordinator advises teachers on teaching activities relevant to pupils with special educational needs including able pupils.

### **Health and Safety**

School visits relating to Geography are subject to a risk assessment. General and legal requirements for Health and Safety are covered in the Health and Safety policy.

### **Resources**

Resources for Geography are stored in the humanities resource area. The school library contains a comprehensive supply of books to support research, and classes have access to additional books and artefacts through the Library Service.

### **Review**

The policy will next be reviewed by the subject leader, staff and Governors in 2016.

A Shaw, February 2013