

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Geography Policy

PRINCIPLES

- We recognise the importance of allowing pupils to explore the relationship between people and their environment which forms the essence of Geography.

AIMS: Early Years Foundation Stage

- Pupils will access Knowledge and Understanding of the World through
 - Activities based on first-hand experience that encourages exploration, observation, problem solving, critical thinking, decision making and discussion.
 - A range of indoor / outdoor activities that stimulate interest and curiosity in the environment.

AIMS: Key Stage 1 and 2

- To appreciate the world around them.
- To stimulate the pupils' interest in their surroundings, both locally and further afield and to foster a sense of responsibility for their surroundings.
- To encourage respect and tolerance for other people's life-styles and cultural values.
- To stimulate the development of cross-curricular links
- To introduce pupils to basic geographical skills.

OBJECTIVES: Key Stage 1

- To know where places are and to recognise changes taking place in the local area.
- To create a greater awareness of their environment through fieldwork and observation.
- To use photographs and maps to enable them to construct simple plans.
- To acquire familiarity with globes and atlases.
- To appreciate contrasting life-styles and environments beyond their immediate experience.
- To develop an awareness of seasonal changes of weather and the effects it has on plants, animals and people's activities.
- To develop an ability to illustrate data by the use of diagrams and graphs allied to appropriate ICT packages.

OBJECTIVES: Key Stage 2

- To use globes and atlases and be able to identify such features as the continents, oceans, countries, cities, highland and lowland, coasts and rivers, particularly those specified in the National Curriculum.
- To use a variety of maps, including large scale maps of their neighbourhood and be able to apply simple techniques of map reading and interpretation.
- To appreciate the ways in which human decisions influence changes in the local environment.
- To acquire skills in
 - a) Carrying out observations and in collecting information as part of an enquiry.
 - b) Using a variety of sources of information about their locality and other places.
- To study some aspects of life and conditions in a number of other areas in Britain and abroad, which provide pupils comparisons with their own locality. Pupils will develop an appreciation of a variety of cultures and develop positive attitudes towards different communities from these studies.
- To investigate at first hand, features of local weather including variations within the school grounds. Also, to study how weather conditions vary within different parts of the world.
- To acquire skills in communicating their findings and ideas with varying degrees of precision, in writing, pictures, models, diagrams and maps, using ICT packages where appropriate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Work will be planned to help pupils acquire knowledge and develop skills according to their ability. Activities will be planned to challenge the able and support the less able.

WORKING PROCEDURES:

In Foundation Stage sufficient time will be provided for pupils to explore and develop ideas in a practical context. Geography is organised on a two year plan. Key Stage 1 topics are taught half-termly and Key Stage 2 topics are taught in alternate terms.

ASSESSMENT, RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING:

Opportunities for assessment will be identified when planning and pupils will receive ongoing teacher assessment. A written statement of pupil's progress and achievement will be reported to parents annually.

At the end of each topic or unit a class assessment record sheet will be completed using NC level descriptors as an aid to summative assessment.

MONITORING:

The Co-ordinator will monitor the implementation of plans, outcomes of assessment and sampling of exercise books throughout the year. In Reception progress is tracked through the Foundation Stage Profile.

RESOURCES:

Resources are stored in Departments.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Aspects of Health and Safety must be considered when planning geographical activities in the classroom.

Written permission must be obtained before undertaking work outside the school grounds. A Risk Assessment on the area to be visited must be carried out and the necessary paper-work completed. All teachers responsible for trips should comply with the policy of adult / pupil ratio and check if an 'Outdoor Leaders' qualification is necessary, as detailed in Outdoor Activities Folder.

November 2008

Review November 2011