

Geography Policy



R.Langford November 2015

Geography teaching is about developing an understanding of our world, through experience, investigation and research. Learning about the world and our local area gives the children a sense of responsibility and understanding about the ways in which we can look after the world around us. At Hillstone Primary, we provide regular opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the world through fieldwork and practical activities. Through teaching human Geography children gain an appreciation for other cultures and ways of life. The children will learn about natural disasters which will allow them to understand how geography can affect the lives of people in various countries. International themes are an integral part of the curriculum at Hillstone and every opportunity is sought to ensure the children see how we fit into the world!

Aims and Objectives

Our aims and objectives of Geography teaching are to enable children to:

- ✚ Be able to discuss aspects of our local area including landmarks using correct Geographical vocabulary
- ✚ Be able to use simple maps and globes to find different countries or to plot a simple route.
- ✚ To be able to compare the UK with other European and non-European countries
- ✚ Take part in fieldwork and investigate the natural world.
- ✚ Understand how landscapes change over time and why.
- ✚ Develop an understanding of the natural world including natural disasters eg. Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tsunamis.
- ✚ To understand the water cycle and weather patterns in the UK.
- ✚ To gain an appreciation for other cultures and ways of life.
- ✚ To understand the need for sustainability and to contribute to this. Eg. Through recycling, eco-warriors etc.

Planning

At Hillstone Primary School all work is based around a topic. Each topic incorporates a range of subjects including science, history, geography, art, ICT, DT and PE, as well as many opportunities to link literacy and numeracy. Topic maps can be found on the Staff Share file in Hillstone Curriculum. Each year group will complete at least two topics which include geography each year.

Delivery

- ✚ The children should experience Geographical activities on a regular basis. Ideally, they should be once per term (twice per year at a minimum).
- ✚ Where possible Geography activities should be practical and allow children to learn outdoors.
- ✚ The geography curriculum will be taught through topics in a cross-curricular way.
- ✚ Both key stage one and key stage two children will be provided with the opportunity to undertake fieldwork that compliments their topics. This will include
 - Children planning for their fieldtrip eg. looking at maps and planning a route.
 - Observing landmarks and points of interest and recording findings in various ways including sketches/annotations and taking photographs.
 - Reflecting on what they found out while undertaking the fieldwork.
- ✚ Teachers should always consider and manage safety of the children when undertaking fieldwork. When appropriate teacher's should visit the fieldwork site prior to taking the class.
- ✚ Topics are organised ensuring progress and breadth and build upon previously learnt skills.
- ✚ Teachers to ensure that Geography teaching is in line with the Geography learning ladders.

Early Years

We teach Geography in Nursery and Reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. Geography is encompassed in the early year's curriculum within 'Understanding of the World'. Nursery and Reception both use the early year's objectives to ensure that Geography is included in planning and suitable activities are planned for. Geography and outdoor learning is a crucial element of a child's development. Children in foundation stage have access to the outdoors daily and are encouraged to explore the world. Fieldwork activities are planned in Reception and allow the children to gain a better understanding of the world. By the end of Reception children will be able to use some geographical vocabulary and talk about aspects of their familiar world.

Record Keeping, Assessment and Reporting

As in all other areas of the curriculum, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Children's Geography work can be evidenced in a number of ways. This will include work in books. When appropriate class teachers should make recordings of the pupils practical work (using iPads, cameras etc.). In addition, photographs can be used to evidence practical or fieldwork.

Progress will be recorded on Learning Ladders using "Best Fit" statements. Topics will have a number of statements and will indicate what skills have been developed during that topic. At the end of the topic the teacher will record:

- ✚ 2 ticks if the child has successfully completed that topic (*most children have achieved*).
- ✚ 3 ticks if the child has excelled during the topic (*high achievers*).
- ✚ 1 tick if the child has made limited progress.
- ✚ 0 ticks if the child has been absent for the whole topic.

Additional Opportunities for Children

All children at Hillstone Primary school will have the opportunity to take part in a residential trip. These trips will enhance geographical skills by allowing the children to use taught skills in a real context for example; orienteering or following a route on a map.

During Geography topics the children will explore the local area as well as Birmingham city centre and London. This will give them a greater understanding of place knowledge and also will enable them to compare locations.

Early years children will have the opportunity to take learning outdoors for a 2 week period to complete forest school activities. This will help to establish a love of the outdoors and learning about the natural world.

A nature club will be offered to Reception children during the summer term. This will focus on objects that are found in the natural world.

Teaching Geography to children with special needs

We teach geography to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children.

Monitoring and review

The Geography subject leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and for the quality of teaching in Geography. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Geography and being informed about current developments in the subject. The Geography subject leader is responsible for giving the head teacher an annual summary report in which she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement.