



PETERBOROUGH KEYS ACADEMIES TRUST

Geography

Intent:

The geography curriculum at Ravensthorpe Primary Academy provides children with a relevant and coherent knowledge of the world and their place in it, through the framework of three vertical concepts. Beginning first with the National Curriculum, we have designed our curriculum as a progressive model around these vertical concepts which provide a concrete lens through which to study and contextualise geography, as well as small steps to help pupils to gain a deep understanding of complex, abstract ideas:

- Location and Place
The location of the world's continents, countries and places, and the key physical and human characteristics of each.
- Geographical Scale
Considering the local, national and global scale and understanding how causes and effects occur at all scales.
- Making Connections
How are the human and physical worlds connected? How are different locations connected at different scales?

Our curriculum is designed in a way that embeds core disciplinary knowledge and the ability to approach challenging, geographically-valid enquiry questions. It equips children with sufficient knowledge to think, act and work like professional geographers.

Our curriculum is designed in way which creates excitement for geography, that inspires a curiosity to learn more about the world and their place in it and provides opportunities for children to see themselves reflected in the curriculum and others who they may not ordinarily encounter through our review of content to ensure it is truly inclusive and diverse.

Implementation:

Early Years is the first opportunity to develop our children's curiosity for the world. We implement our geography curriculum by following the interests of the children through the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework which aims to guide children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The range of children's personal experiences is used to increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them. Listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems fosters children's understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world which has changed over time.

In Key Stage 1, geographical skills are taught through children learning about the world's seven continents and five oceans and naming, locating and identifying characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas the world around them. Also, the pupils are taught to understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in contrasting non-European country. This ensures a firm foundation and understanding of geography, ready for Key Stage 2.

In Key Stage 2, pupils extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range



of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

When teachers plan a unit, they begin with the end in mind, having clarity about exactly what they want the children to learn. Outcomes are clear and detailed, and each lesson has a concise learning intention. We are determined that children develop the progressive skills of a geographer throughout their time at Ravensthorpe and not just learn a series of facts about the world. Substantive knowledge rich lessons where children build on prior learning and situate knowledge within carefully constructed concepts are delivered following Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. Teachers create a knowledge organiser which outline the key substantive knowledge and vocabulary which children are expected to utilise with each unit being carefully planned for progression and depth.

The curriculum is well designed and developed to be ambitious for all learners and to ensure children know more and can remember more. Based upon up-to-date research on cognitive load and on how children learn most effectively, determined our approach to implementing our geography curriculum. We take an approach of spacing out new knowledge combined with interweaving and retrieval practice to ensure learning sticks. Each unit has built in practice, retrieval and reinforcement of the key vertical concepts to ensure knowledge sticks in the long-term memory. For learning to stick in the long-term memory we teach geographical knowledge in meaningful contexts and in a connected way.

For each unit of learning, teachers plan for and children experience:

- The disciplinary knowledge needed to be successful geographers including the use of primary and secondary sources.
- Co-operative learning to ensure high levels of accountability and engagement for all children.
- Connections are made to highlight career opportunities that learning in geography can lead to.
- Educational visits, visiting experts and artefacts to enhance the learning experience.
- Classroom working walls which detail; current, prior and future learning, the substantive and disciplinary knowledge children will learn, dual coded key vocabulary, the vertical concept the area of learning falls within and links where applicable, to our sustainability curriculum.
- Questioning is used to allow pupils to consolidate knowledge and understanding where necessary or to apply learning in an open manner.
- Opportunities for all pupils to see themselves reflected in the curriculum by focusing on local landmarks and features to achieve a sense of relevance and belonging through local geography.
- A curriculum that teaches pupils about countries from across the world and always incorporates the experiences – positive and negative – of people migrating to the UK.
- To enable children of all abilities to access the curriculum, additional models and scaffolds are provided. Teachers reference the 'Geography Four Broad Areas of Need document' to ensure their planning meets the needs of all children; changes to pedagogy are also considered and changes to content are made in consultation with the Geography Lead and the SENCO.



Impact:

Our Geography Curriculum is high quality, well sequenced and planned to demonstrate progression. Children will become increasingly critical and analytical within their own thinking and make informed and balanced judgements based on their knowledge of the world. Children will develop a secure understanding of the location of places in the world. The children will be able to describe and understand key aspects of physical and human geography including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains and volcanoes, earthquakes and the water cycle and the types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water. The impact of our curriculum will provide children with secure geographical skills and the ability to carry out fieldwork. Our children will develop a passion for geography and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, which develops their sense of curiosity about the world and their place within it.

Our curriculum is designed in a way to be suitably challenging; we believe that if children are keeping up with the demands of each lesson, that they are making good or better progress.

In addition to this, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- A pre learning quiz to ascertain whether children have mastered the prior learning needed to enable them to access the planned unit.
- A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes.
- Low stakes quizzes.
- Pupil's books and pupil discussions about their learning. These are carried out on a regular basis with subject leaders.
- Writing opportunities are planned to provide children with the opportunity to write at length to demonstrate their knowledge.
- Teachers continually interact with children, through challenging questioning, to assess their thinking, knowledge, and understanding. Feedback is actionable, precise and acted on by the children in every lesson.
- Recall and retrieval practice demonstrates whether learning has been remembered.

Our geography curriculum is also planned in a way which promotes the cultural capital of all our children. We enhance our curriculum in order to achieve the greatest impact to encompass the needs of all of our children by organising and visitor. We also provide additional opportunities such as school trips to enrich pupil's understanding and provide context through fieldwork experiences and secondary resources. We contribute towards the cultural capital for the children in terms of the knowledge and skills they need to be successful learners and beyond their education. Cultural capital in geography has been identified in terms of the knowledge of the world that is useful to our lives and we are aware that powerful knowledge will put children at an advantage.