



## **Winterton Junior School Geography Policy**

### **Introduction**

Geography teaching in the Primary School is about developing an understanding of our world, through experience, investigation and learning from secondary sources. Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places. This helps to enable children to take responsibility for their role in society and to develop a caring attitude towards others, animals and plants in our environment. Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. Children study their local area and contrasting places in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

### **Aims and objectives**

Through our teaching of geography we:

- Develop children's geographical understanding and competence in specific geographical skills.

Help children acquire and develop the skills and confidence to undertake investigation, problem solving and decision making.

Stimulate the children's interest in and curiosity about their surroundings.

Create and foster a sense of wonder about the world.

Inspire a sense of responsibility for the environments and people of the world we live in.

Increase the children's knowledge and awareness of our changing world, so that they will want to look after the Earth and its resources and think about how it can be improved and sustained.

Begin to develop respect for, and an interest in, people throughout the world regardless of culture, race and religion.

Develop a sense of identity by learning about the United Kingdom and its relationship with other countries.

We also hope to:

Improve pupils' skills across the curriculum, particularly in writing, reading and Mathematics.

Develop thinking skills.

Develop pupils as active citizens.

### **Principles of the Teaching and Learning of Geography**

The teaching of Geography encompasses the acquisition of three key areas of learning:

- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and field work

An understanding of geography is essential to our understanding of the world and the skills and knowledge of Geography have a wide application in everyday life. Geographical fieldwork and investigations provide important opportunities for working in teams and developing individual responsibility. Due to its focus on places and environments in different parts of the world, and on issues that arise about how these are changing, Geography provides a unique vehicle for environmental education and PSHE.

## **Teaching and learning Style**

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We use whole-class teaching methods, group work and work requiring individual responses. We combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask, as well as answer questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data; such as maps, photographs and information books and we enable them to use technology in lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.

## **Assessment**

We assess the children's learning by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. The school's marking policy is implemented to provide written and verbal feedback in order to aid further learning.

Assessment for Learning is used routinely in lessons, enhancing the learning experience and contributing to progress.

## **INCLUSION**

### **Equal Opportunities**

We deal with such issues clearly and sensitively when they arise. Pupils with Special Educational Needs are catered for in teachers' planning and delivery of lessons.

### **Health and Safety**

Fieldwork is particularly important in geography. When planning a visit, teachers always complete a risk assessment and are aware of the school emergency procedures for trips and Local Authority's policies on visits and excursions within and outside the local area.

### **Subject Coordinators role**

The subject coordinator:

- Takes the lead in policy development.
- Takes the lead in implementing the New Curriculum topics to ensure progression and continuity across the school.
- Supports colleagues in assessment.
- Monitors progress in Geography and advises the Head Teacher on action needed.
- Takes responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for Geography,
- Keeps up to date with developments in Geography Education and disseminates information to colleagues as appropriate.
- Promotes positive geographical information.

This policy, as with all other policies, will be subject to review in accordance with any new guidelines.

*Policy written by Naomi Brears: Autumn 2017*

*Policy agreed by Staff: Autumn 2017*

*Policy agreed by Governors: Autumn 2017*

*Policy review date: Autumn 2020*