

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Geography Policy 2021 - 2023

Date of policy: March 2021

Date of review: March 2022

Person Responsible: E. Cashmore



1 Aims and objectives

Through our teaching of geography we aim to:

- Stimulate pupils' enthusiasm for, and curiosity about their surroundings and the wider world.
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of the different communities and cultures within Rawcliffe, York, Britain and the world - and how these relate to each other.
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of the changing world.
- Encourage pupils to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems within Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School and the wider world.
- Develop pupils' competence in specific geographical skills (such as use of maps, secondary sources, ICT, aerial photographs, data logging equipment and considering evidence from a range of sources).
- Foster a sense of responsibility and respect for our school grounds (in line with our outdoor learning policy) earth, its people and its resources.

2 Teaching and learning style

- We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities.
- We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions.
- We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use IT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.
- Children take part in role-play and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class.
- They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities and, wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Geography Policy

2021 - 2023

activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem or use of the Internet to investigate a current issue.

3 Geography curriculum planning

- We plan Geography to ensure the aims and objectives set out in the National Curriculum are covered. Learning activities should be sequenced to ensure progression and continuity throughout the school.
- Children demonstrate their ability in Geography in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work through a combination of formal and informal tasks, by making informal judgements during lesson, discussions, question and answer techniques and observation.
- On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work by marking and commenting as necessary and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress.
- Our curriculum planning is in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). Our long-term plan maps the Geography topics studied in each term during each key stage. The Geography subject leader works this out in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group. In some cases we combine the geographical study with work in other subject areas, especially at Key Stage 1. At other times we arrange for the children to carry out a geographical study independently.
- Our medium-term plans follow the national scheme of work and give details of each unit of work for each term. The Geography subject leader reviews these plans on a regular basis. We plan the topics in Geography so that they build upon prior learning. Children of all abilities have the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and, through planned progression built into the scheme of work, we offer them an increasing challenge as they move up the school.

5 The contribution of Geography to teaching in other curriculum areas

- **English**

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Geography Policy

2021 - 2023

Geography makes a significant contribution to the teaching of English in our school because it actively promotes the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. At Key Stage 2 we organise debates on environmental issues because we believe that these develop speaking and listening skills.

- **Mathematics**

Geography in our school contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. We teach the children how to represent objects with maps. The children study space, scale and distance and they learn how to use four- and six-figure grid references. They also use graphs to explore, analyse and illustrate a variety of data.

- **Information and communication technology (ICT)**

We make provision for the children to use the computer in geography lessons where appropriate. We incorporate ICT in our Geography curriculum planning at Key Stage 2, and we use it at Key Stage 1 when appropriate. Children use ICT in geography to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work. They research information through the internet. We also offer children the opportunity to use the digital camera to record and use photographic images.

- **Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship**

Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship. Firstly, the subject matter lends itself to raising matters of citizenship and social welfare. For example, children study the way people re-cycle material and how environments are changed for better or for worse. Secondly, the nature of the subject means that children have the opportunity to take part in debates and discussions. We allow them to organize campaigns on matters of concern to them, such as helping the poor or homeless. Thus geography in our school promotes the concept of positive citizenship.

- **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**

We encourage the children to reflect on the impact of mankind on our world. Through teaching about contrasting localities, we enable the children to learn about inequality and injustice in the world. We help children to develop their knowledge and understanding of different cultures so that they learn to avoid stereotyping other people and

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Geography Policy

2021 - 2023

acquire a positive attitude towards others. *Geography* contributes to the children's appreciation of what is right and wrong by raising many moral questions during the programme of study.

6 Teaching geography to children with special needs

- At Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School we teach *Geography* to all children, whatever their ability. *Geography* forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our geography teaching we provide learning opportunities that match the needs of children with learning difficulties and we take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

7 Assessment and recording

- Opportunities for assessment will be identified in curriculum overviews for each age group, and these will be based on an assessment of key skills and essential knowledge and understanding within *Geography*. Methods of assessment will vary as appropriate to the learning. Reporting to parents occurs annually within a child's written report to parents.

8 Resources

- We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all the geography units in the National Curriculum. We allocate resources to each Key Stage, and keep some of the whole school resources in the LKS2 store room. In the library we have a good supply of *Geography* topic books and a range of educational software to support the children's individual research.

9 Fieldwork

- Fieldwork is integral to good geography teaching and we include as many opportunities as we can to involve children in practical geographical research and enquiry.

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Geography Policy

2021 - 2023

- At Key Stage 1 we let all the children carry out an investigation into the local environment and we give them opportunities to observe and record information around the school site.
- At Key Stage 2 the children do a study of the local area (Investigating Rawcliffe). In Year 6, we also offer them the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Kingswood Educational Centre.

10 Monitoring and review

- The Geography subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in geography.
- The Geography subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Geography, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

Signed: E. Cashmore

Date: March 2021