



Geography

Intent

At Mendlesham Primary School, it is our intention that all pupils, irrelevant of needs, gain a greater understanding of the physical world, their community and their place within it. Geography is an investigative subject and we believe in a 'hands on' approach. Our curriculum is planned so that children gain a rich and thorough understanding of the differences and similarities between them and the rest of the world, ensuring that they are able to access experiences, livelihoods and ways of life that are different to their own. Through our teaching, we aim to give our learners strong geographical knowledge and vocabulary, good enquiry skills, the ability to use a range of maps, the skills to collect and analyse data and the opportunity to communicate their findings in a variety of ways. The geography curriculum at Mendlesham Primary School enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas which can and are used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We want geography to be creative, fun and to spark children's enthusiasm and interest, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits.

Implementation

Geography at Mendlesham Primary is taught weekly and in half termly blocks throughout the year (alternating with the history curriculum), so that children can achieve depth in their learning. To begin their Geography learning journey, children in EYFS will be given opportunities to be immersed in rich language and vocabulary to enable them to begin to make sense of the physical world and their personal experiences within the world and their community. In KS1, children begin to cement their essential foundational knowledge of their local area which they then build upon through topics surrounding the United Kingdom and the wider world; they will use maps throughout the years to allow them to gain concrete understanding of how people and places relate to each other. Children will begin to compare where they live to places outside of Europe and ask and answer geographical questions. In KS2, map skills are developed further using digital maps, an increased number of keys and symbols as well as gaining more understanding about compass points, grid references and the lines and contours of the world. Mendlesham's KS2 Geography Curriculum will ensure that children grow to be environmentally conscious citizens of the world by including a focus on the climate, preservation, conservation, natural resources and how this can impact on the world for example, in natural disasters. In addition, the lessons are sequenced to help children build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge whilst the children continue to progress their knowledge by revisiting and consolidating skills. All children will expand on their skills in local knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography, geographical skills and fieldwork. It is important that children develop the skills of a geographer by fully immersing them in all areas of the subject.

Outcomes of work are regularly monitored to ensure that they reflect a sound understanding of the key identified knowledge and that links are made to English and Mathematics, as appropriate. Within our knowledge-rich approach, there is a strong emphasis on people and the community of our local area as well as beyond. Looking both within and beyond the local area maximises the cultural, as well as historical differences, which the children are exposed to.

Monitoring via learning walks and book looks will provide the basis of developmental feedback. Assessment for learning will shape the exact lessons taught to ensure that the pitch and expectation is correct for any particular class.

Impact:

Through high quality teaching of geography, we will see the impact of the subject in different ways. Through pupil voice children will be able to talk about the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Children will be engaged in geography lessons and want to find out more. Older children will complete research independently through enquiry questions to further their own enjoyment of the subject. The children's work will show that a range of places, physical and human themes are being covered with cross curricular links being made where appropriate and differentiated work is being set. It will also make reference to the key geographical skills of using maps of different scales, observation, fieldwork and independent research in Key Stage 2. The geographical vocabulary that the children are exposed to in each year group is embedded in their lexicon and successively built upon. As geographers, children will learn how our actions influence the environment in which we live. We hope that this will influence the decisions they make in their lives in the future. Assessments and monitoring will show standards in geography will be high and will match expectations in other subject areas.

Long term plans can be found on the whole school curriculum document.