

Geography at Catshill First School and Nursery

Aims:

We believe that Geography is an exciting learning experience where children develop their understanding and knowledge of the world, in line with the National Curriculum. Our children are encouraged to explore the curriculum in a way which stimulates questions and enthusiasm and enables them to be curious about the world. Children develop and practice our School Values through Geography. They spend time talking with their peers and have opportunities to work collaboratively. They show respect for their environment and have an awareness of how to make a difference. They also develop their ability to critique evidence in a considerate manner. Here, our children learn how to empathise, communicate and compromise. We hope that children at Catshill become confident Geographers who are interested and inquisitive about the world. We want the children of Catshill to have imaginative and creative experiences and leave our care with new knowledge, skills and understanding that will make them learners of the future.

What you will see:

At Catshill, we use topic titles from Cornerstones and teachers plan fun learning opportunities based on both the National Curriculum and our Skills Progression documents. Our Skills Progression documents indicate the suitable skills that should be grasped during each year group. Using both documents ensures children receive a purposeful curriculum aimed at the right level. Geography is taught when the topic lends itself so that the teaching is fluent and coherent. Teachers will consider how best to deliver the lesson whilst taking into consideration: vocabulary, teacher input, independent opportunities and reflection. As the curriculum is enhanced each year, this ensures continuity and makes certain that learning is built upon year on year. This certifies that the children within our care receive appropriate learning at the right time in their development.

We begin our Geography provision in our Nursery setting and this is where the foundation skills are embedded. The children explore Geography through the 'Understanding the World' aspect of the Early years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum: People and Communities and The World. To inspire our youngest of children, these objectives are met through enhanced Play and Learn provision. This is where children use resources, equipment and the local surroundings to develop their curiosity of the world around them. This is continued in Reception where our aim is to further develop the children's understanding of the world and this is delivered in a topic that again lends itself to Geography.

All classrooms have a Map of the World on display so that children have regular exposure to this. It is expected that this map is referred to as part of Geography teaching and promotes continuity. We provide children with rich Geography experiences that support all different types of learners. This may be done practically, auditorily or visually. Where possible, the children will make use of the local environment to enhance learning opportunities, creating memorable experiences for our children. Each Geography lesson will also provide our children with new vocabulary and this is added to our Word Aware so that children can make reference to it throughout their topic.

In Topic books, it is expected that the learning objective is evidenced as this is both useful for the children and for monitoring purposes to ensure that all aspects of the curriculum have been covered. Geography work will often show cross-curricular links to other subjects and helps to provide varied and diverse experiences. We encourage a range of teaching approaches and this is done through teacher judgement based on the children within their care.

Ensuring this is put into practice:

Geography is assessed by the teacher whenever a lesson is taught. Interventions and support are put in place where children require it and may be planned for or carried out spontaneously because the staff have used their Assessment for Learning (AfL) skills. Each term, Geography is assessed using Educater. Staff indicate which areas the children have covered and to what depth the learner has understood. The Geography subject leader also carries out monitoring of the subject termly. Monitoring includes assessing the curriculum content and the learning opportunities to make sure that they are age-appropriate and purposeful, utilising the Skills Progression books to ensure these are built upon year on year. To further our children's aspirations, we celebrate Geography by dedicating a day (Around the World in 6 Hours) in each alternate year where the whole school enjoys exploring a new country. The day is designed to provide innovative opportunities where children are enthused. They will look at where in the world the country is, what foods are eaten there, what the climate is like, what human and physical features it has. They will also begin to understand the jobs in which Geography can lead to. A truly inspirational day to motivate our learners to be Geographers of the future.