



Offenham C.E. First School

Geography Policy

Introduction

Geography is concerned with the study of places, human and physical processes that shape them and the people who live in them. Children study their local area, the Vale of Evesham, and localities in the U.K. and other parts of the world. Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places.

The study of the local area forms an important part of the geography taught at our school. Enjoyable geographical activities are planned to build on children's knowledge and understanding of the local area.

Vision

Our school vision, "Love, transformation and growth" plays a significant role in our collective attitude to our curriculum. We offer all pupils equal access to, and a love of learning, so that all can be transformed, flourish and grow in every area of the curriculum including Geography.

Aims

At Offenham our aims in geography are:

- To deliver the National Curriculum,
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the key physical and human geographical concepts and a positive attitude to geography,
- To develop the necessary skills to understand and carry out geographical investigations,
- To foster the cross curricula links between geography and other subjects,
- To build self confidence to enable children to work both independently and co-operatively with others.

Objectives

Children should have the opportunity to:

- Interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes and aerial photographs,
- Communicate geographical information in a variety of ways,
- Develop the skills of geographical enquiry; collecting, analysing and communicating data gathered through experiences of fieldwork,
- Develop the ability to plan and carry out investigative work.

Teaching and Learning

The curriculum is taken from the Programmes of Study as directed by the National Curriculum document and is separated into Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Children will cover the following aspects in Key Stage 1:

Location knowledge:

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans,

- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the UK and its surrounding seas.

Place knowledge:

- 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 a contrasting non-European country.

Human and physical geography:

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles,
- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical and human features.

Geographical skills and fieldwork:

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries,
- use simple compass directions and locational and directional language (e.g. near and far; left and right) to describe the location of features and routes on a map,
- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features,
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

Children will cover the following aspects in Key Stage 2:

Location knowledge:

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities,
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features, and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time,
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones.

Place knowledge:

- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America.

Human and physical geography:

- describe and understand key aspects of:
 - physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle,
 - human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Geographical skills and fieldwork:

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied,
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world,
- use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Curriculum Planning

The geography curriculum is taught through a specific geography lesson. A cycle of topics has been designed for Key Stage 1 and EYFS and for Key Stage 2, to be taught over a 3-year period. Key Vocabulary and important concepts to be taught are displayed and shared with the children in a knowledge organiser.

Where possible geography fieldwork using the locality will be included in each unit of work. Each year we will be taking part in a heritage project learning about our local village of Offenham creating maps and identifying the human and physical features of the village.

Educational Inclusion

At Offenham school we are aware that all children are different and that their differing needs must be catered for. We have systems in place to ensure that the health, safety, care and protection of all children are catered for. In geography the teacher will ensure that:

- All children are able to access the geography curriculum,
- In oral and discussion work differentiated questions will be planned,
- Open ended questions are asked to encourage and promote discussions and provide speaking and listening opportunities,
- A range of teaching styles is used.

The school's values embrace educational inclusion, as reflected in its curriculum, resources, communications, procedures, conduct and relationships.

Adaptive Teaching

Teachers will ensure that the teaching strategies enable all individuals or groups to work at a level which is appropriate to them.

Assessment and recording

Assessment of the children's work is a continuous process and examples of the children's work will reflect their achievement.

Teachers will assess the children's work reflecting on the geography lesson objectives.

Health and Safety

Throughout all geography activities, including fieldwork, the children will be taught safe practices. To aid teachers in aspects of health and safety all staff have access to the current Worcestershire County Council safety guidelines. Risk assessments are carried out for geographical activities and equipment when needed.

Geography Lead: Mrs Elizabeth Daniels

Policy agreed Autumn 2026 by staff and governors at Offenham CE First School.
To be reviewed Autumn 2027.