

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

The role of geography is to enable pupils to understand the relationships between places, the human and physical processes that shape them, and the people who live in them. It is concerned with the past, present and future and helps pupils to make sense of the outside world. Geography is about seeing, doing, enquiring and experiencing.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that Geographical studies should enable pupils to:-

- develop a strong interest in their own surroundings and in the physical and human aspects which have shaped it.
- understand some of the relationships between people and their environments.
- increase their geographical knowledge.
- develop an enquiry based approach - to describe places, explain why places are as they are and predict what changes may occur.
- empathise with places, people and cultures.
- develop a wide range of geographical skills through active participation in enquiry, map work and fieldwork
- observe and describe geographical features using appropriate terminology.
- develop map work skills.
- obtain geographical information from a wide range of resources.
- use I.C.T. to further develop geographical skills.
- construct a framework of knowledge and understanding about their home area, country and other parts of the world, which will enable them to place information within appropriate geographical contexts.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The National Curriculum provides the frameworks within which we aim to deliver geography at appropriate levels.

The teaching of geography is based on the Programmes of Study for KS1 and KS2.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children should be presented with the opportunity to experience success, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, ability or disability.

The School welcomes and values disabled people to be an active part of school life.

Broomwood Primary School is keen to make sure that we do not make it difficult for disabled children, young people and adults to be involved in

every part of school life. We have a legal duty not to discriminate against disabled people and to monitor how many of our pupils. Staff, parents/carers and governors are disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Broomwood Primary School recognises that disabled people are very diverse and include people with a physical impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, learning difficulty, specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), mental health issues, people who are deaf, British sign language users and people with long term health conditions.

OUR AIMS

It will be the school's policy to promote the development of geographical skills from year to year.

We believe that children should be able to:-

- ask questions and form hypotheses
- plan investigations
- observe geographical features and conditions
- find, collect and record information
- analyse, interpret, evaluate and organise information

PLANNING

Teachers will plan suitably challenging geographical activities in line with the National Curriculum, the QCA scheme of work and the LCP files for geography.

a) Long Term Planning

The teachers follow the Whole School Plan that ensures reasonable breadth and balance across the age range. Teachers are aware of the geographical topics to be covered by their class for the year ahead and this should facilitate the preparation of fieldwork studies and resources. In KS1 Geography will be incorporated into termly topics where appropriate.

b) Medium Term Planning

This will look in detail at the term's work and should include details of:

- Teaching objectives – the Geography Scheme of work details key and National Curriculum objectives for each QCA topic.
- Skills to be developed in the topics
- Resources
- Activities
- Assessment

c) Short Term Planning

Teachers should plan the week ahead in some detail, making reference to the medium term planning.

Teachers are responsible to the Headteacher and Curriculum Co-ordinator for all aspects of their planning.

TEACHING METHOD

There are clear implications for the way in which geography is taught.

Enquiry should form a part of all work in geography. It should take account of pupil's interests, experiences and capabilities and lead to investigations based on fieldwork and classroom activities.

Pupils should develop their geographical skills through the National Curriculum breadth of study and being taught key skills each year, building on previous learning.

We will use a variety of teaching methods best suited to the abilities and interests of the children, including:-

- fieldwork and local studies
- observation and enquiry
- individual, group and class investigations
- discussion and debate

RESOURCES

Pupils will be encouraged to select information from a variety of resources including:-

- photographs
- maps, charts, atlases and globes
- documents, books and newspapers
- visitors
- fieldwork and local area studies
- videos, TV and radio programmes
- Information and Communication Technology

While some materials may be stored in classrooms, others are available in the central resource area and the staff room. Additional, topic based, books may be ordered in advance from Trafford's resource centre. A list of resources is included with the Scheme of Work.

ASSESSMENT, REPORTING AND RECORDING

Assessment will be in line with the school's Assessment Policy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The staff work in accordance with Trafford's Health and Safety Guidelines. All visits will be organised in line with the School's Visits Policy.

THE ROLE OF THE GEOGRAPHY CO-ORDINATOR

The Geography Co-ordinator should:-

- be available for advice and consultation to other members of staff
- be aware of the latest information on curriculum updating and statutory guidelines, and attend courses in order to disseminate this information
- be responsible for the formulation and updating of a Geography Policy
- encourage staff to provide evidence of good practice in classroom teaching
- take responsibility for the auditing, ordering and maintenance of geography resources
- initiate liaison with secondary schools where applicable

THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER

The Headteacher should:-

- support the work of the co-ordinator to enable the school to have a well planned and well delivered geography curriculum.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed and revised in line with developments in the National Curriculum and the School Development Plan.

October 1995
Revised April 2002
Revised October 2002
Revised January 2004
Revised January 2006
Reviewed September 2007
Reviewed January 2008
L. Jones (Shadow C.Flint)
Reviewed January 2009
C Flint

Signed _____ for the Governing Body

