**Geography Policy for Kniveton Primary School**

**Subject:        Geography**

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**Background:**

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of geography taught and learnt at Kniveton Primary School.

The policy has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.  The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.  The responsibility for monitoring and review rests with the geography co-ordinator.

**Aims**

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

* develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
* understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
* are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
* collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
* interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
* communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length

**I Intent**

At Kniveton Primary School we aim to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for Geography; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum; ensuring the progressive development of geographical concepts, knowledge and skills; and for the children to develop a love for geography.

We aim for a high quality geography curriculum on a ***two yearly cycle\****, which should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Our teaching equips pupils with knowledge about places and people; resources in the environment; physical and human processes; formation and use of landscapes.

We also want children to develop geographical skills: collecting and analysing data; using maps, globes, aerial photographs and digital mapping to name and identify countries, continents and oceans; and communicating information in a variety of ways. We want children to enjoy and love learning about geography by gaining this knowledge and skills, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits.

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people who live in them. Children study their local area and contrasting places in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. The study of the local area forms an important part of the geography taught at our school and activities are planned to build upon the children's knowledge and understanding of the local area.

***\*\*with the exception of year 2019/2020 when KS2 classes are merged\*\****

**Through our teaching of Geography we aim to:**

* develop children's geographical understanding and competence in specific geographical skills;
* help children acquire and develop the skills and confidence to undertake, investigation, problem solving and decision making;
* stimulate the children's interest in and curiosity about their surroundings;
* create and foster a sense of wonder about the world;
* inspire a sense of responsibility for the environments and people of the world we live in;
* increase the children's knowledge and awareness of our changing world, so that they will want to look after the Earth and its resources and think about how it can be improved and sustained;
* begin to develop respect for, and an interest in, people throughout the world regardless of culture, race and religion;
* develop a sense of identity by learning about the United kingdom and its relationship with other countries.

**II Implementation**

In ensuring high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Geography is taught every half term. As we have mixed year classes, we operate ***a 2 yearly cycle*** that focuses on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. At Kniveton, we ensure that geography importance in the curriculum, as we feel this is important in enabling all children to gain ‘real-life’ experiences. For example, using the local area to follow maps in Key Stage 1, to comparing the similarities and differences in environments and communities in Lower Key Stage 2, through to debating world issues on pollution and trade in Upper Key Stage 2.

Through our teaching of geography we aim to encourage children to think about their learning and for the learning to be enquiry based, with the child answering questions through their research using a range of resources.

**In teaching Geography, we:**

* Begin the teaching of geography in reception class relating it to the objectives set out in the EYFS Curriculum in particular developing children’s knowledge and understanding of the world.
* Always explain what we want pupils to know, understand and be able to do through the geography they are about to do
* Often use a key question to direct pupils' thinking / enquiry
* Use a range of sources such as people, the local environment, sites, photographs, portraits, artefacts, written materials, ICT based materials, data, TV / video extracts
* Present their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways such as through drama, art, models, various writing styles / genre, collage, timelines, sketches, maps
* Use starters and plenaries to ensure students fully understand how and what they are learning, how their learning links to other subject areas and how well they are progressing.
* Differentiate to ensure that the varying needs and abilities of the children will be catered for.
* Learning will be revisited over the year so skills and knowledge are continually being built on

**III Impact**

The impact and measure of this is to ensure that children at Kniveton Primary School are equipped with geographical skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for life as an adult in the wider world.

We want the children to have thoroughly enjoyed learning about geography, therefore encouraging them to undertake new life experiences now and in the future.

Geography teaching in Kniveton is about developing an understanding of our world, through experience, investigation and learning from secondary sources. Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places. This will help to enable children to take responsibility for their role in society and to develop a caring attitude towards others, animals and plants in our environment.

Children’s progress is monitored on our ***progression document from*** year one to year 6.

**Assessment**

Teachers make on going assessments as topics are taught and staff complete a progression document to monitor how their skills have progress.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

 To monitor and evaluate geography the subject leader:

* Supports teachers via informal discussions about the teaching of Geography within their year group, reviews and purchases resources
* Monitors teachers plans and end of unit reports ensuring key skills are being covered thoroughly and with purpose.
* Regularly carries out book checks and pupil interviews

**Signed:**