

Geography Policy



For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

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Mission Statement of Nutgrove Methodist Primary School

Nutgrove Methodist Primary School strives to provide a caring environment in which every individual can achieve his or her full potential, without limits.

This is encompassed by our Bible verse For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.

To achieve this, we wish to create a happy, secure and purposeful culture throughout the school, which is conducive to learning and high standards, and is based on our Christian values, love, hope and respect.

Our school's motto and vision is 'My Best, Always, Everywhere' which is interwoven within our curriculum intent and design.

Safeguarding Statement

At Nutgrove Methodist Primary School we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors.

Introduction

Here at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School we provide a geography curriculum that prepares children to participate in the rapidly changing world. Our Geography curriculum should develop children's enthusiasm and enjoyment of geographical learning and understanding.

This policy outlines how we enable all our learners to achieve the highest possible standards in geography. It sets out our agreed approach to the planning, delivery and assessment of geography across our school.

Intent

At Nutgrove Methodist Primary School, we recognise our school context and have designed our curriculum with the intent that pupils build the secure foundations required to become successful and aspirational adults who seek opportunities, take responsibilities as moral citizens and gain life experiences that extend their horizons. We want children to leave school as 'well rounded and responsible' individuals.

The school motto *'My Best, Always, Everywhere'* is interwoven within our curriculum intent and design. We have developed three curriculum drivers that shape our curriculum, bring about the aims and values of our school, and to respond to the particular needs of our community:

Culture - helping children develop a wider and deeper knowledge of the locality, society and the world around them, promoting a sense of awe and wonder.

Global Citizenship - Everyone no matter where they live are part of a global community.

Diversity - which helps children recognise differences are positive and that individual characteristics make people unique and everyone should love and be loved without limits.

At Nutgrove Methodist Primary School through the study of Geography children combine practical skills with an understanding of human, physical and environmental issues, change and processes. This allows children to investigate and analyse the geography of places and how they develop and change.

We intend on delivering a curriculum which promotes practical and engaging, high-quality Geography, aiming to provide children with the foundations and knowledge for understanding the world. We aim to promote geographical enquiry and engagement with the local environment to ensure that children learn through varied and first-hand experiences of the world around them.

Our curriculum offers fieldwork and in-depth studies so that children develop an understanding of the impact of human development on the natural and physical world around them, and aims to capture children's natural curiosity about the world and what they observe. It promotes respect for the environment, living things and processes and their own and other's health and safety.

Our curriculum is intent on developing children's geographical skills through practical and engaging lessons, with identified key knowledge, technical vocabulary and skills that build on previous learning. It recognises that geography impacts our daily lives, always has and always will. We help children make rich connections through Year Group themes to develop a deeper thinking about the applications of geographical knowledge and conceptual understanding and make links between different experiences.

The geography curriculum at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School provides equal opportunities for children to apply their geographical knowledge to other subjects (cross-curricular links). It is in line with the expectations in the National Curriculum 2014.

Implementation - Curriculum Design

At Nutgrove we follow a bespoke sequence of learning to meet the needs of pupils in geography.

The Geography Curriculum will allow pupils to:

- Develop their knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.
- Deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments.
- Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places - both terrestrial and marine - including their defining physical and human characteristics.
- 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 change over time.
- Become 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.

Foundation Stage:

All pupils in the EYFS are taught Geography as an integral part of the play-based learning covered during the academic year.

All Geography objectives within the EYFS are underpinned by the following three prime areas outlined in the 'Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage':

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development

There are four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive arts and design

The Geography curriculum in EYFS focuses on the specific areas of Understanding the World and Being Imaginative.

Pupils will be taught to:

Make maps.

Investigate the local environment, in school and beyond.

Represent their own feelings about where they live, their school and the local area, and other places they have heard about, through art, music, dance, role play, storytelling and D&T.

Key Stage 1:

Key Stage 1 pupils will:

- Be taught knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in an interactive process of enquiry.

- They should work in a range of relevant contexts [for example, the home and school, gardens and playgrounds, the local community and the wider world].

Key Stage 2:

Key Stage 2 pupils will:

- Through a variety of creative and practical activities, pupils will be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in an interactive process of geographical enquiry.
- Work in a range of relevant contexts, for example, the home, school, regional, national and the wider world.

To support the teaching of geography, children have access to knowledge organisers, which have been carefully designed by our teachers, to support the high-quality teaching and learning of this subject. The knowledge organisers are useful tools which allow the children to become more independent and resilient geographers.

We also promote a language rich geography curriculum and encourage children to use the correct vocabulary- with subject specific vocabulary displayed in classrooms.

In geography, children are encouraged to ask questions and enquire about their topic of interest, developing their independence when locating places, describing places and exploring the outdoors.

To develop their knowledge and understanding, children will access a range of resources such as: atlases, books, maps, digital technology and photographs.

To further enhance learning and instil a love of geography, opportunities for field work and/or school trips will allow the children to apply their knowledge and geographical skills in the 'real world'.

Assessment for learning will ensure all lessons are relevant and will help in the planning of next steps.

Where possible, cross-curricular links will be planned for and delivered to children in a way, which will help to reinforce skills and knowledge throughout the appropriate topics in the curriculum

In addition, assemblies/themed days and/or events that can be linked to an aspect of geography will help us to celebrate and promote this part of the curriculum further.

Impact

By the end of the Foundation Stage, pupils will know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They can talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes. Children can represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories. This will prepare children to readily access the KS1 curriculum.

By the end of Key Stage One, pupils should have developed knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

By the end of Key Stage Two, pupils should have extended their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should have developed their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Through the teaching of geography throughout their time at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School, children will:

- become confident geographers and will ask questions to further their own enquiry.
- recall important facts and apply skills and knowledge in more open tasks across the curriculum and in a real-life context.
- have a good understanding about the world around them, including where they live in the context of the world, and how it has been shaped.
- be equipped with geographical skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the next stage of their learning and subsequently for life- as an adult in the wider world.
- be respectful of varying cultures and take an active role in becoming global citizens.