

Stoke Prior First School Curriculum Offer for Geography

Geography is a valued part of the curriculum at Stoke Prior First School. Our aims are 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 to develop knowledge of places and environments throughout the world. The children will have an understanding of maps and develop investigative and problem solving skills both in and out of the classroom. They will study how the environment is affected by natural and man-made events. In studying and comparing a variety of localities the children will develop an understanding of distance, travel, communication, climate and settlement. We are very pleased that our school has been recognised as an Eco school and we continue to work hard on teaching our children about sustainability and global issues.

We also plan for our Geography curriculum to instil a sense of awe and wonder about the world around us. We aim to develop a sense of curiosity and fascination within all of our children, to encourage them to think for themselves, to take initiative, to ask questions and enjoy investigating our world. It provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. Geography explores the relationship between the Earth and its people.

Curriculum – Knowledge, Skills and Understanding

Foundation Stage

In Reception at Stoke Prior First School, children begin the foundations of an understanding of geography by developing their Understanding of the World-Development Matters-September 2021. In Autumn the children focus on where they live, where their classroom and school are located and looking at and learning about maps. Throughout Spring the children investigate Earth and beyond. In Summer they continue exploring different countries by looking at their location and climate, and they learn about the oceans and volcanoes.

Understanding the World

Past and Present

*Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.

*Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.

People, Culture and Communities

*Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.

*Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.

The Natural World

*Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

*Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.

*Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter

Key Stage One (Years One and Two)

Locational 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 United Kingdom 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 features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather
- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage
- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, 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; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- 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.

Locational knowledge

As part of the new curriculum there has been a renewed importance on locational place, with children needing to know a much broader range of countries and cities. This begins in

Key Stage one, by learning the continents, major world oceans, and identifying the four countries of the UK and their capital cities. Children will have the opportunity to explore their local area and become more familiar with the 'geography' of their surrounding environment. Year One children enjoy a visit the local church.

Human and physical geography

In year two children will compare our local area to a Non-European region. Children will also begin to develop an understanding of physical processes such as the weather, how this changes throughout the year, and how it is different in other parts of the world. Children will begin to make links and understand how physical processes like the weather affect the humans and environments in those countries.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

In Key Stage one children will also begin to identify places using maps, atlases, globes and aerial images. They will begin to make their own maps, devise basic symbols and learn the four compass points. Children will have the opportunity to apply these skills in their fieldwork studies in both Year One and Two.

Key Stage Two (Years Three and Four)

In Key Stage Two the children develop a more in depth knowledge of the UK including counties, cities, and land use and settlement patterns. In addition children will be able to locate a variety of different countries in Europe and the rest of the world with a focus on the Americas. Children will be able to identify what these countries are like in relation to climate, topography, settlement, land use and environments.

Fieldwork is also an essential component in Key Stage two with children developing their map skills through a variety of multi-media, and using a range of methods to present their findings.

Pupils will be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- **locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) 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 (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), 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 (including day and night)

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 (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.