



BENGEWORTH CE ACADEMY

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

2022 - 2023

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Bengeworth
Multi Academy Trust

Brilliant People • Better Schools • Bright Futures



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STATEMENT OF INTENT

Curriculum Intent

At Bengeworth CE Academy, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is underpinned by our values and core beliefs and aims. Our intent and vision is to provide inspirational learning experiences that will ignite sparks within the children and enable them to develop as confident, articulate and happy individuals who achieve academic excellence, prepared for the wider world ahead of them.

We have taken great care to design our curriculum to achieve our vision and ensure that our values underpin it. We aim to ensure that the curriculum is exciting and challenging and reflects and nurtures children's interests and needs and celebrates the many successes of our children. Links between subjects are made to ensure there is an engaging and relevant context within which to learn and topics are used as the driving forces for each half term/terms focus. We strive to create and provide opportunities for the children to develop their creativity and imagination; promoting new interests and an awareness of the wider world. We are fully committed to teaching the vital life skills children need in order to be safe and happy in and out of school.

Subject Intent

Our aim is that children develop the skills to think and talk like a geographer. In doing so, children can make links to the real world, immersing themselves in discussions which help to develop their reasoning and explanation of every day events. Visits to specific local areas, as well as visitors coming into school, help bring geography to life and play a part in children realising their own aspirations. Our geography curriculum reflects the experiences of our pupils, creating an immersive range of learning experiences that are relative and relatable.

There are three sub strands within our geography curriculum:

- To investigate places
- To investigate patterns
- To communicate geographically

The specifics for what each sub strand entails are detailed in the BAD (Basic, Advanced, Deep understanding) grids.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage' 2021
- DfE 'geography' programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2' 2013

IMPLEMENTATION

The Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS) Early Learning Goal (ELG) within Understanding the World, states:

ELG: People, Culture and Communities Children at the expected level of development will:

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps;
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- 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.

KS1/KS2 – 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.

In all year groups, the skills within three sub strands are built upon year on year. The sub strands for Geography are:

- To investigate places
- To investigate patterns
- To communicate geographically

Cross-curricular links

Wherever possible, the geography curriculum will provide opportunities to establish links with other curriculum areas.

English

- Pupils are encouraged to use their speaking and listening skills to describe what is happening.
- Pupils' writing skills are developed through recording findings and creating reports.
- Pupils' vocabulary is developed through the use and understanding of specialist terminology.

Maths

- Pupils use their knowledge and understanding of measurement and data handling.
- Where appropriate, pupils record findings using charts, tables and graphs.
- Pupils use data analysis in order to identify patterns.

Science

- Pupils use their knowledge of the natural world to identify and analyse features of physical geography.
- Pupils' investigative and practical skills are developed through the use of fieldwork and problem-solving activities.

ICT

- ICT will be used to enhance pupils' learning.
- Pupils will use ICT to locate and research information.
- ICT will be used to record findings, using text, data and tables.

Spiritual Development

- Pupils' development will be focussed on the vastness of the world, encouraging an appreciation and fascination.
- Pupils are encouraged to think about the effect of humans actions on the environment.
- Current geographical developments and issues will be discussed in the classroom, where appropriate.

Forest School (LOtC)

- Pupils are encouraged to think about the effect of humans actions on the environment.
- Pupils are encouraged to explore their immediate environment.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features, as well as human features, including buildings, vegetation and seasons.
- Notice changes in daily weather as well as seasonal changes.

Early Years' Foundation Stage (2021)

Activities and experiences for pupils will be based on the seven areas of learning and development, as outlined in the DfE's 'Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage'.

Provision for Early Years' pupils focuses on three prime areas and four specific areas:

Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Specific areas:
 - Literacy
 - Maths
 - Understanding the World
 - Expressive arts and design

All activities will adhere to the objectives set out in the framework. In particular, geography-based activities will be used to develop pupils' communication and language skills and their understanding of the world, helping them to comprehend a world beyond their local community.

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum is followed and provides a full breakdown of the statutory content to be taught within each unit.

Key Stage 1 pupil objectives

Locational knowledge

- Name and locate the world's continents and oceans.
- Name, locate and identify characteristics of the countries which make up the United Kingdom (UK).

Place knowledge

- Understand the geographical similarities and differences of areas of the UK and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

Human and physical geography

- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK.
- Locate hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features, as well as human features, including buildings, vegetation and seasons.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the UK and any other countries studied.
- Use simple compass directions, locational terminology and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.
- Use aerial photos and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.
- Devise a simple map and construct basic symbols in a key.
- Use observational skills to study the geography of the school and identify the key human and physical features of the surrounding environment.

Key Stage 2 pupil objectives

Locational knowledge

- Use maps to locate countries around the world, concentrating on Europe's and North and South America's environmental regions, major cities and key characteristics.
- Identify counties and cities of the UK, geographical regions and their identifying characteristics, key topographical features and land-use patterns.
- Understand the location and significance of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Equator, the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, the Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Greenwich Meridian and other time zones.

Place knowledge

- Identify geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of one region in the UK, Europe and North or South America.

Human and physical geography

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

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries.
- Use the 8 points of a compass and four- and six-figure grid references and symbols to build knowledge.
- Use a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies, to record the human and physical features in the local area.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Geography Coordinator is responsible for:

- Preparing policy documents, curriculum plans and schemes of work for the subjects.
- Reviewing changes to the national curriculum and advising teachers on their implementation.
- Monitoring the learning and teaching of geography providing support for staff where necessary.
- Ensuring the continuity and progression from year group to year group.
- Encouraging staff to provide effective learning opportunities for pupils.
- Helping develop colleagues' expertise in the subject.
- Organising the deployment of resources and carrying out an annual audit of all related resources.
- Liaising with teachers across all phases.
- Communicating developments in the subjects to all teaching staff and the senior leadership team (SLT), as appropriate.
- Leading staff meetings and providing staff members with appropriate training.
- Organising, providing and monitoring CPD opportunities in the subject.
- Ensuring common standards are met for recording and assessing pupil performance.
- Collating assessment data and setting new priorities for the development of geography in subsequent years.

The classroom teacher(s) is/are responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy.
- Ensuring progression of pupils' geography skills, with due regard to the national curriculum.
- Planning lessons effectively, ensuring a range of teaching methods are used to cover the content of the national curriculum.
- Liaising with the **subject leader** about key topics, resources and support for individual pupils.
- Monitoring the progress of pupils in their class and reporting this to parents on an **annual** basis.
- Reporting any concerns regarding the teaching of the subjects to the **subject leader** or a member of the **SLT**.
- Undertaking any training that is necessary in order to effectively teach the subjects.

The Inclusion Lead is responsible for:

- Liaising with the **subject leader** in order to implement and develop specialist geography-based learning throughout the school.
- Organising and providing training for staff regarding the curriculum for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Advising staff how best to support pupils' needs.
- Advising staff on the inclusion of geography objectives in pupils' individual education plans.
- Advising staff on the use of CSPs in order to meet pupils' needs.

IMPACT

Equal Opportunities

- We are an inclusive school that ensures all pupils are provided with equal learning opportunities, regardless of social class, gender, culture, race, disability or learning difficulties.
- In order to ensure pupils with SEND achieve to the best of their ability, outcomes are adapted and the delivery of the geography curriculum is differentiated for these pupils.
- The planning and organising of teaching strategies for each subject will be reviewed on a **termly** basis by the **subject leader** to ensure no pupil is at a disadvantage.
- The school aims to maximise the use and benefits of geography as one of many resources to enable all pupils to achieve their full potential.

Teaching and Learning

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in geography lessons. The main aim of these lessons is to develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding.

The following skills are key to development, and we promote these through our creative, broad and balanced curriculum:

- Communication.
- Application.
- Information Technology.
- Working with others.
- Improving own learning and performance.
- Problem solving.
- Mastery of key knowledge, understanding and skills within a coherent, broad and balanced curriculum
- Global, Social, Health, Environmental, Entrepreneurial, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural awareness and understanding.
- Deeper level Thinking and Learning Skills.
- Meaning and purpose to children in the here and now, and prepare them for the next phase of their education and for their future.
- Widening of horizons and raising aspirations about the world of work and further education through increased Cultural Capital.
- Recognition that personal development is essential to wellbeing and success.

The **classroom teacher**, in collaboration with the **subject leader**, will ensure that the needs of all pupils are met by:

- Setting tasks which can have a variety of responses.
- Providing resources of differing complexity, according to the ability of the pupils.
- Setting tasks of varying difficulty, depending on the ability group.
- Utilising SPs to ensure that pupils are effectively supported.
- Increasing oracy skills by allowing opportunities for discussion and reasoning and explanation.

Planning

Curriculum Maps are used to outline the learning journey of each year group over the year which identifies key texts, topics, learning objectives, enterprise opportunities, trips and visits and shows how skills and knowledge will be built upon from the previous year whilst providing an engaging and broad curriculum for the year.

Medium-term planning gives clear guidance on the skills and knowledge that we are developing within each topic/subject, showing progression from the previous year. Regular reviews take place every term.

Short term weekly planning journals are then used to map the journey within each week of the children's learning outlining key learning objectives, activities and opportunities.

Assessment and reporting

- Pupils will be assessed and their progression recorded in line with the school's **Assessment Policy**.
- In Reception the EYFS profile will be completed for each pupil in the final term. The progress and development of pupils within the EYFS is assessed against the early learning goals outlined in the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'.
- The progress and development of pupils within KS1 and KS2 is assessed against the descriptors outlined in the national curriculum.
- Throughout the year, teachers will plan in accordance with the Foundation Subject Assessments and use this in order to gauge whether pupils have achieved the key learning objectives.

Assessment will be undertaken in various forms, including the following:

- Talking to pupils and asking questions
- Discussing pupils' work with them
- Marking work against the learning objectives
- Pupils' self-evaluation of their work
- Formative assessment, which is carried out informally throughout the year, enables teachers to identify pupils' understanding of subjects and inform their immediate lesson planning.
- Parents will be provided with a written report about their child's progress during the **Summer** term every year. This will include information on pupils' attitudes towards geography, understanding of methods, investigatory skills and the knowledge levels they have achieved.
- Verbal reports will be provided at Parents' Evening during the **Autumn** and **Spring** terms.
- The progress of pupils with SEND will be monitored by the **Inclusion Lead and Class Teacher**.

Resources and equipment

- The school has a selection of centrally-stored materials, tools and equipment to ensure that all pupils have access to the necessary resources.
- The school library contains an array of resources and topic books to support pupils' research.
- At the **start of every school year**, the **subject leader** will conduct an audit of the school's **geography** resources to ensure there is sufficient equipment for pupils. This will be shared with the Head of School and funds will be allocated where necessary.
- There is an expectation that each and every class has both a World Map and a map of the United Kingdom clearly displayed.

Monitoring and review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the subject leader and the Headteacher
- Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.
- All members of staff directly involved with the teaching of geography are required to familiarise themselves with this policy.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2023**.

APPENDICES TO SUPPORT SUBJECT AREA INCLUDING RESOURCES

Oddizzi

<https://www.oddizzi.com/>

The Royal Geographical Society

<https://www.rgs.org/>

Geographical Association

<https://www.geography.org.uk/>

The British Museum

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Bengeworth

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Bengeworth Multi Academy Trust
King's Road, Evesham, WR11 3EU
office@bengeworth.worcs.sch.uk

www.bengeworthtrust.co.uk

Company Registration Number: 08943457
UID: 16942
UKPRN: 10060770

