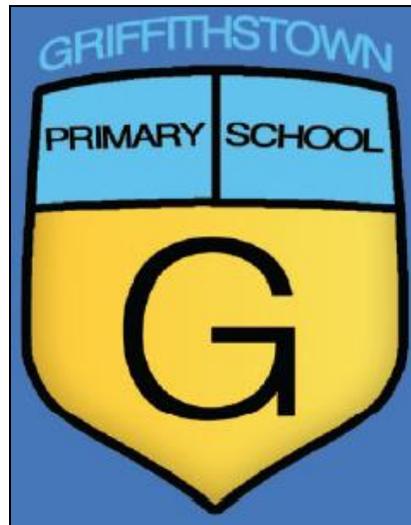


GRIFFITHSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Title	Geography Policy
Date	Summer 2015
Author	M Small



INSPIRE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE

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Geography

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognize the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

During the foundation phase children should experience the familiar world through enquiry, investigating the indoor and outdoor environment in a safe and systematic way. They should be given experiences that help them to increase their curiosity about the world around them and help them to begin to understand past events, people and places, living things, and the work people do. Using all their senses, they should be encouraged to enjoy learning by exploration, enquiry, experimentation, asking questions and trying to find answers. They should learn to demonstrate care, responsibility, concern and respect for all living things and the environment. They should develop and communicate using an increasing range of appropriate vocabulary. They should learn to express their own ideas, opinions and feelings with imagination, creativity and sensitivity. The children's skills should be developed across all Areas of Learning through participation in experiential learning activities and through the use of sources such as stories, photographs, maps, models and ICT.

At Key Stage 2, learners build on the skills, knowledge and understanding that they have already acquired during the Foundation Phase. Geography develops and stimulates learners' interest in, and fosters a sense of wonder of places and the world about them. Through the study of their own Welsh locality, the world beyond, different environments and events in the news, learners develop their understanding of what places are like and how and why they change. Through practical activities and first-hand investigations in the classroom and out of doors, learners develop skills to gather and make sense of information, use maps, think creatively and share ideas through discussion. Geography provides opportunities for learners to consider important issues about their environment, and to recognize how people from all over the world are linked. They are encouraged to understand the importance of sustainability, develop an informed concern about the quality of their environment, and to recognize that they are global citizens.

Aims

Our aims in teaching Geography are to:

- Enable pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world

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- Increase pupils' knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country
- Provide opportunities for pupils to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps
- Enable children to recognize and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- To encourage in pupils a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- Develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and presentation

Teaching and learning styles:-

The teaching styles that we adopt at Griffithstown Primary School are as active and practical as possible. The outdoor environment is frequently used as a basis for geographical activities. Through the use of a skills based curriculum we encourage the pupils to explore their individual learning style. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all pupils by matching the challenge of the task to their ability and experience.

Equal Opportunities

The pupils are encouraged to fully participate in all aspects of the literacy curriculum regardless of their race, gender, age or ability. Griffithstown Primary School ensures access to learning at an individual level through differentiated teaching and learning strategies. Planning should set high expectations and provide appropriate learning opportunities for pupils from all social backgrounds and for those who are disabled. For more guidance the school has an Equal Opportunities policy.

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Teachers in the course of their teaching through marking and observations carry out formative assessment informally. Pupils are encouraged to become increasingly more confident to evaluate their own work. Feedback to the pupils about their own progress is given whilst a task is being carried out for example discussion between child and teacher. The school uses a computerised end of year report software package from Incerts.

Curriculum Cymreig

Geography contributes to the Curriculum Cymreig by offering opportunities for pupils to explore by investigation and fieldwork the diversity of natural and human landscapes in Wales, enabling them to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

They examine the economic processes that have changed Wales and how decision making at local, national and European levels can affect Wales' development. They explore the reasons for economic and environmental issues that affect communities in Wales, including their own. They develop a sense of place and identity through investigating the links between communities and

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between regions in Wales, as well as understanding relationships between Wales and other countries.

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of individual teachers to teach pupils to use Geography resources and equipment safely and responsibly and to consider the hazards and risks of activities which take place in the outdoor environment. It is important that the school's Health and Safety policy is strictly adhered to when carrying out residential trips, fieldwork, forest school sessions and other outdoor pursuits relating to the geography curriculum and that parental permission is obtained for pupils carrying out such activities, where necessary. Teachers should ensure that relevant documentation is obtained and satisfactorily completed before leaving the school premises.

Additional Learning Needs

Pupils with additional learning needs are supported by differentiated materials, activities, appropriate software and level of support provided to develop their skills and learning to their full potential. The learning needs of less able learners will be taken into consideration when providing starting points while more-able learners will be challenged to use materials in ways that extend breadth and depth of study and opportunities for independent learning.

Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF)

Throughout this subject you will see examples of literacy and numeracy skills being used and developed. These skills will have been taught previously in English and Maths lessons and are mapped out on our medium term planning sheets.

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Next review date: Summer 2016

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