

King Ina Church of England Academy

Geography Curriculum Overview Statement

Our curriculum approach to geography reflects our vision statement:

Within our secure Christian environment, our vision is to develop healthy, happy, motivated learners who aspire to achieve their full potential and who look to the future with confidence.

The name of the current curriculum lead is on the school website on the curriculum page.

Intent

Geography is essentially about understanding the world we live in. At King Ina Church of England Academy, we understand that the subject helps to stimulate curiosity and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. We want our pupils to be encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it.

The geography curriculum at King Ina Church of England Academy enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas which can be used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Characteristically, geography is an investigative subject which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. We seek to inspire in children an interest and fascination about the world and its people, which will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

As pupils progress through the school, their growing knowledge about the world helps them to deepen their understanding of diverse places, people, resources and environments, together with the Earth's key physical and human processes. The curriculum is designed to ensure that teaching equips pupils for the future.

Implementation

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) follows their own curriculum, which places great emphasis on the geographical aspects that flow through 'The Development Matters Guidance', in the area: 'Understanding the World'. Geography within the Early Years Foundation Stage is taught through topics using cross curricular links and also by making it relevant to children through following their own interests. Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, children explore their immediate environment and the wider school community, enabling them opportunities to develop a rich geographical vocabulary that will progress with the children as they gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Outcomes of work are monitored to ensure that they reflect a sound understanding of the key identified knowledge.

For both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, geography is taught in blocks throughout the year, to allow children to achieve depth in their learning. Each teacher is responsible for delivering geography lessons as part of our topic work. In Key Stage 1, both year groups will have a different topic focus every half term on a two-year rolling programme, whereas Key Stage 2 whole-term topics follow a four-year cycle. These 'Explore' topic titles provide opportunities for teachers to investigate every aspect of the National Curriculum for geography while further discovering and developing areas of interest personal to each class. As an academy, we maintain strong links to the National Curriculum guidelines to ensure all aspects, knowledge and skills of geography are being taught across all year groups. Learning starts by revisiting prior knowledge, while displays in every classroom provide constant scaffolding for children by displaying subject specific vocabulary along with key facts and questions.

For each topic, optional activities linked to either the history that is being covered that half term/term to be carried out at home are suggested as part of our 'Topic Learning Journey'. This communicates with those at home about what is being covered and aimed for at school, while developing shared learning within family units and deeper historical enquiry and research.

At the beginning of each topic, teachers collaboratively plan a launch/hook activity to engage children in each new theme. At King Ina Church of England Academy children will be given, where appropriate, a variety of experiences both in and out of the classroom, fully utilising the local area, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice, creating memorable educational opportunities and to further support and develop their understanding. To do this successfully, as geographers, they need to be able to research, interpret results, including primary and secondary sources. Our topics are celebrated at their conclusion with a special day of workshops and activities.

Key knowledge and skills of each blocked topic have been identified with consideration given to ensure progression throughout each year group across the school enabling children to achieve depth in their learning while ensuring that knowledge builds progressively and that skills can be developed systematically.

At the beginning of each Key Stage 2 topic, children are able to convey what they already know as well as what they would like to find out. This ensures that teaching is informed by the children's starting points and that it takes account of pupil voice, incorporating children's interests. Furthermore, ensuring that lessons are relevant and take account of children's different starting points.

The local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice. School trips and fieldwork are provided to give first hand experiences, which enhance children's understanding of the world beyond their locality.

Impact

By the time children leave King Ina Church of England Academy they will:

- Have an outstanding knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- Have an excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.
- Have an extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Be fluent in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills and use effective analytical and presentational techniques.
- Be highly developed at frequently utilised fieldwork and other geographical skills and techniques.

Outcomes in topic books will evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge relating to each of the National Curriculum strands, as appropriate to key stage; locational knowledge, place knowledge and human and physical geography. This is in addition to the development and application of key skills, supported by fieldwork.

Children will review what they have learned - comparative to their starting points in Key Stage 2 - at the end of every topic. As children progress throughout the school, they will develop a deep knowledge, understanding an appreciation of their local area and its place within the wider geographical context. Having obtained a passion for - and commitment to - the subject, pupils at King Ina Church of England Academy will possess a real sense of curiosity to discover more about the world and the people who live there. With the ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in excellent knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment, they will be able to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings.