



Townlands C of E Primary Academy

A journey of learning in the light of God's love.

Geography

"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together."

Barack Obama

Our Vision for Geography

At Townlands, we believe that geography teaches children to develop an understanding of their immediate location, as well as developing an appreciation of global locations and diverse cultures within our world. The children gain a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding. Children learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain as well as around the world. We believe that geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world in which children live and thereby develop in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Why do we teach geography?

At Townlands, we teach geography on a termly basis. This enables children to build on their previous knowledge so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect and build upon prior learning. Our long term plan allows each class to develop their prior learning from the previous year.

The objectives of teaching Geography in our school are:

- To develop contextual knowledge about diverse places, people, resources
- To develop a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes
- To understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture, and to study some aspects of European geography
- To be competent in the geographical skills needed to; collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data
- To interpret a range of sources which show geographical information

- To communicate geographical information in a variety of ways including writing at length
- To gain experiences of fieldwork that deepen the children's experiences of geographical process.

Rationale – Why we do what we do...

After completing a geography audit with pupils and staff we know that our pupils really enjoy these lessons. However, for our children to develop their geographical knowledge further, we devised a new geography curriculum across KS1 and KS2; this is now being taught in all year groups. Our progression documents enable teachers to plan the development of geographical knowledge purposefully. We are also embedding geographical fiction and non-fiction texts into English lessons throughout the school to embed cross curricular links.

Enrichment

Children will learn about areas of significant geographical interest within their local area. In addition, they will learn about current topical geography such as global plastic pollution as well as issues which affect their local community. Children will also experience the following:

- Fieldwork opportunities within the local area including trips (e.g. Baracca Gardens, village walk, University of Leicester Botanical Gardens)
- Use of a computer to identify places in the world and understand their physical and human geography
- Meeting and talking to geographers and students in association with The University of Leicester Widening Participation Programme
- Linking learning of other cultures and languages to their geographical location

How do we deliver the geography curriculum?

The teaching and implementation of the geography curriculum at Townlands is based on the National Curriculum. Our geography content is subject specific, however we make cross-curricular links to strengthen schemas. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are further promoted in Geography.

As well as learning the geographical skills required for their fieldwork; vocabulary, locations, descriptions and facts, the children will also learn key skills for life:

- Teamwork
- Safety related to land use
- Asking perceptive questions
- Critical thinking
- Research

- Collection of data
- Application of mathematical skills when analysing data

These techniques are repeated throughout the years, so that the children can build upon and refine their skills in each area. These skills are also transferrable, meaning our children can apply them to other subject areas within the curriculum.

Geography in the curriculum

- We plan using the National Curriculum.
- We enhance the curriculum using progression grids.
- Subject progression grids are used to develop long term planning.
- Teachers use the long term planning to plan units of work and deliver individual lessons.

EYFS

Geography in EYFS makes a significant contribution to developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world, through activities such as looking at similarities and differences in relation to places and looking at features of their own immediate environment. This is enhanced further by outdoor learning, where children use their own curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them.

KS1 and KS2

Geography at Townlands is taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children can achieve depth in their learning. Teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. At the beginning of each topic, children are able to discuss and consider what they know already as well as what they would like to find out. Cross curricular outcomes in geography are specifically planned for, with strong links between geography and literacy lessons identified, planned for and utilised. The local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice. For example, in KS1 we use our school grounds to teach some of our studies and in KS2 we aim to investigate our wider location through fieldwork. The knowledge and skills required to excel in this subject are set out in our geography progression document.

This is how we support and ensure access for all children:

- Ensure that a range of equipment and resources are available to enable success for all pupils (e.g. atlases, maps, additional templates etc).
- We use teacher and self-assessment to quickly identify any child who requires additional support in specific skills

This is how we challenge:

- An additional challenge planned for, from the very start of the lesson

How does the geography curriculum embed knowledge?

The successful approach at Townlands to the teaching of geography ensures that children build knowledge, make connections between this knowledge and use it to explore and understand the world in which they live. As children progress throughout the school, they develop a deep knowledge, understanding an appreciation of their local area and its place within the wider geographical context. Regular school trips provide further relevant and contextual learning.



Useful Websites

Here are links to some useful geographical websites:

Royal Geographical Society

National Geographic

Geographical Association