Otterburn Primary School



## Humanities Policy

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## Statement of intent

Humanities develops pupils’ understanding of the world in which they live through the study of place, space and environment. Children make sense of the natural world and enrich their understanding of it. They will understand the similarities and differences between communities, societies and cultures, and the impact of changes on people and places. They will understand the significance of local, regional, national and global events now and in the past and why learning about them matters. They will understand their role within the world, by exploring locality and how people fit into a global structure. The subject also encourages children to learn through experience, particularly through practical and fieldwork activities.

# Legal framework

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

* DfE (2013) ‘National curriculum in England: geography/history programmes of study’
* DfE (2021) ‘Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage’

# Roles and responsibilities

The humanities coordinator is responsible for:

* Preparing policy documents, curriculum plans and schemes of work for the subject.
* Reviewing changes to the national curriculum and advising on their implementation.
* Monitoring the learning and teaching of geography and history, 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 to develop colleagues’ expertise in the subject.
* Organising the deployment of resources and carrying out an annualaudit of all geography resources.
* Liaising with teachers across all phases.
* Communicating developments in the subject to all teaching staff.
* Leading staff meetings and providing staff members with the appropriate training.
* Organising, providing and monitoring CPD opportunities in the subject.
* Ensuring common standards are met for recording and assessment.
* Advising on the contribution of geography to other curriculum areas, including cross-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
* Collating assessment data and setting new priorities for the development of geography and history in subsequent years.

# The classroom teacher is responsible for:

* Acting in accordance with this policy.
* Ensuring progression of pupils’ geographical 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 humanities coordinator about key topics, resources and supporting individual pupils.
* Monitoring the progress of pupils in their class and reporting this on an annual basis.
* Reporting any concerns regarding the teaching of the subject to the humanities coordinator or a member of the senior leadership team (SLT).
* Undertaking any training that is necessary in order to effectively teach the subject.

# Early years provision

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

* Past and Present
* People, Culture and Communities
* The Natural World

All activities will adhere to the objectives set out in the framework.

In particular, activities will be used to develop pupils’ understanding of the similarities and differences between:

* Things in the past and now.
* Religious and cultural communities in this country.
* Life in this country and life in other countries.
* The natural world around them including seasons and changing states of matter.

# The national curriculum

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

**KS1 pupil objectives** **Geography**

* **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.

**KS2 pupil objectives Geography**

* **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.

The aims of the history curriculum are to ensure pupils:

* Know and understand the history of the UK, and how it shaped the world, as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day.
* Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world, such as ancient civilisations; empires and past non-European societies and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as ‘empire’, ‘civilisation’, ‘parliament’ and ‘peasantry’.
* Understand historical concepts, such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use these to analyse.
* Understand the methods of historical enquiry such as using evidence to support arguments.
* Gain a historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history.

**Key Stage 1 History**

Pupils should be taught about:

* Changes within living memory and changes in national life.
* Events beyond living memory that are nationally or globally significant.
* The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
* Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

**Key Stage 2 History**

Pupils should be taught about:

* In relation to Britain; the Stone Age to the Iron Age, the Roman Empire, the Anglo Saxons and Scots, the Vikings to the time of Edward the Confessor.
* The earliest civilisations.
* Studies on local history, an aspect of British history beyond 1066, Ancient Greece, a non-European society such as Baghdad c. AD 900 and another ancient civilisation.

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 human actions on the environment.
* Current geographical developments and issues will be discussed in the classroom, where appropriate.
* The relevance of historical events on life today.

# Teaching and learning

Pupils will be taught to describe key characteristics and associated processes in common language, as well as understand and use technical terminology and specialist vocabulary.

Pupils will undertake independent work, and have the opportunity to work in groups and discuss work with fellow classmates.

Lessons will allow for a wide range of geographical, historical, enquiry-based research activities, including the following:

* Questioning, predicting and interpreting
* Pattern seeking
* Practical experiences
* Collaborative work
* Role-play and discussions
* Problem-solving activities
* Classifying and grouping
* Researching using secondary sources

The classroom teacher, in collaboration with the humanities coordinator, will ensure that the needs of all pupils are met by:

1. Setting tasks which can have a variety of responses.
2. Providing resources of differing complexity according to the ability of pupils.
3. Setting tasks of varying difficulty depending on the ability group.
4. Utilising teaching assistants to ensure that pupils are effectively supported.

Opportunities for outdoor learning and practical work will be provided wherever possible, such as investigating local environmental problems and local history.

# Planning

# All relevant staff members are briefed on the school’s planning procedures as part of staff training.

Teachers will use the key learning content in the DfE’s statutory guidance ‘National curriculum in England: geography/history programmes of study’.

Lesson plans will demonstrate a balance of interactive elements used in teaching, ensuring that all pupils engage with their learning.

Long-term planning will be used to outline the units to be taught within each year group. History and Geography will be taught alongside each other through one topic. Some topics may have a heavier weighting to one of the subjects but over they year there will be a balance of both subjects.

Medium-term planning will be used to outline the vocabulary and skills that will be taught in each unit of work, as well as highlighting the opportunities for assessment. Prior learning of the children will have been identified on the plan and will be referred to where relevant. A key question will be answered at the end of the topic. The series of lessons taught will build up to the children being able to answer this question.

Medium-term plans will identify learning objectives, main learning activities and differentiation as well as whether the lesson has a History or Geography component. Children will know if it is a History or Geography lesson that they are taking part in although this may change lesson by lesson depending on the topic.

Medium-term plans will be shared with thehumanities coordinator to ensure there is progression between years.

Short-term planning will be used flexibly to reflect the objective of the lesson, the success criteria and the aim of the next lesson.

Short-term planning is the responsibility of the teacher. This is achieved by building on their medium-term planning, taking into account pupils’ needs and identifying the method in which topics could be taught.

All lessons will have clear learning objectives, which are shared and reviewed with pupils.

# Assessment and reporting

Pupils will be assessed and their progression recorded in line with the school’s Primary Assessment Policy.

Throughout the year, teachers will plan on-going creative assessment opportunities 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
* Specific assignments for individual pupils
* Observing practical tasks and activities
* 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 informs their immediate lesson planning.

Parents will be provided with a written report about their child’s progress during the summer term every year. These will include information on the pupil’s attitude towards geography, understanding of geographical terminology, investigatory skills and the knowledge levels they have achieved.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities will be monitored by the special educational needs coordinator.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the humanitiescoordinator.

The humanities coordinator will monitor teaching and learning in the subject at Otterburn Primary School, ensuring that the content of the national curriculum is covered across all phases of pupils’ education.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all teaching staff.

Updated November 2024

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