



Heron Cross Primary School

Geography

Intent:

At Heron Cross, we believe that Geography inspires children to develop a greater fascination and understanding of the world, the people within it and their individual role. Our Geography curriculum, gives children the skills and knowledge needed to make links between the academic subject and their personal experiences. The curriculum considers our city locality and allows children opportunities to experience, appreciate and compare differing locations.

Our Geography curriculum is resourced and delivered through Oddizzi. The curriculum progressively builds knowledge and skills through carefully sequenced lessons allowing children to develop an appreciation of how one component relates to another and gain a composite knowledge of geographical processes. For example, in EYFS children learn about weather e.g. wind, temperature. In KS1, children learn about weather in different seasons and then progress to where weathers are found and climate belts. This progressive approach helps children to remember more and motivates our learners as they link new knowledge to existing knowledge.

The curriculum develops our children's understanding of locational knowledge, place knowledge, physical and human features and geographical skills and fieldwork whilst demonstrating the importance of their overlap. Within units, children will learn about locations of significant places, the physical and human characteristics of these places and the processes that caused these characteristics. Geographical skills are also progressively built into these units with children interpreting a range of sources e.g. maps, globes and aerial photographs and being encouraged to communicate their work through maps, diagrams and writing.

The careful sequencing of lessons within units ensures that children are being taught the substantive knowledge for the four key areas before thinking about the disciplinary knowledge that then allows children to make connections and develop secure geographical understandings.

Our pupils begin their Geographical journey in the Early Years. Firstly, children immerse themselves in their immediate, natural environment before exploring their local area. Children are encouraged to draw on their own experiences to recognise and learn about different countries. In Key Stage One, they develop their knowledge of the world and local area exploring the United Kingdom and continents. In Key Stage Two, children extend their knowledge to learn about the world's most significant human and physical features, including mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and rainforests. This progressive framework enables children to develop an increased concept of scale. Throughout the school, children are also given writing opportunities in Geography, which strengthen their English skills and allow pupils to showcase their learning.

New knowledge within each unit is embedded through the use of 'assessment as learning' approaches within lessons e.g. quick-fire quizzing. Retention of new knowledge and skills is then assessed by embedding a range of retrieval strategies at the start and end of lessons and units to inform future teaching and learning.

Our curriculum provides enrichment opportunities; ensuring that fieldwork is planned into every cohort's curriculum. Children also engage in outdoor learning sessions to further enhance their Geography curriculum allowing opportunities for children to explore their local area to collect, analyse and present data, whilst also addressing any gaps in pupils' knowledge.

Naturally, Geography is an investigative subject and we aim to develop a sense of curiosity through the use of big questions to introduce units. This provides an open-ended approach to learning that will support children to ask and answer their own geographical questions and think like a Geographer.