



Geography Curriculum statement

“The study of geography is about more than just memorising 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

Intent

At Boston West Academy, the aim of our geography curriculum is to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, together with an understanding of the Earth’s key physical and human processes. Our geography curriculum is ambitious and designed to give all learners including those with SEND the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

We want our pupils to gain an understanding of their place in the world locally and globally and to understand and respect other cultures around the world through being provided with learning which does not just provide a ‘one picture’ view of a place. Geography teaching in our school is linked to map, atlas and aerial photograph reading skills to develop children’s understanding of interpreting a variety of geographical information and to be competent in sharing this knowledge in a variety of ways.

Implementation

The geography curriculum at Boston West Academy is supported through our memberships with primary geography associations (Oddizzi and Digimaps for schools) and follows the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) framework and the National Curriculum. Key documents and planning from these organisations have supported the creation of our fieldwork skills and guidance for the geography knowledge that will be taught in our school. These documents ensure progression in geographical knowledge and fieldwork skills/opportunities throughout the school. Each year group (Foundation Stage to year 6) has their own set fieldwork skills and fieldwork trip opportunity to encourage the children to be inquisitive and gain first-hand learning opportunities outdoors, this is also completed in our school grounds. Geography lessons are planned to follow the guidance document and through using supporting materials from Oddizzi and Digimaps. Learning is assessed at the end of every term following the school’s assessment tracker for non-core subjects.

To ensure that every child in our school has the opportunity to gain a love of the outdoors and to understand their local environment and how this links to the geography they have learnt in class, each year group has a set fieldwork trip opportunity to experience this. This also ensures that the children receive a variety of places to experience. These trips range from exploring their outdoor learning area in Foundation Stage to support ‘Understanding the World,’ a trip to Hunstanton in year 3 to deepen their knowledge and understanding of coastlines and visiting PGL Caythorpe Court in year 6 to experience a residential trip and develop their orienteering skills in a large and new setting.

To ensure that all pupils develop map, atlas and aerial photograph reading skills, our school uses Digimaps a digital map provider, which allows children to experience map reading in the UK and abroad. These maps are used in lessons to support exploring the human and physical geography of place, compare places around the world and plan routes to travel to a new location. Digimaps also

Working together for success



provides the opportunity to view aerial photographs of a place to support learning and understanding in FS and Key Stage 1 and links to our local history learning by using map overlays in our lessons to explore change in our county and town over time.

Links are made to children's previous learning to support a greater understanding of geography, to allow them to remember more and apply their learning in a variety of contexts. Reading and vocabulary skills are also taught and developed in geography through using non-fiction texts in whole class reading, exploring fact files and using atlases.

In key stage 1, learning is focused on gaining an in-depth understanding of the children's town and county as well as hot and cold places. In key stage 2, each year group studies one nation from the United Kingdom so that by the end of year 6, children have a strong understanding of the area of the world in which they live and to avoid repetition in any learning. Children also broaden their wider understanding of the world through learning focused on different countries and continents, which is set out in the geography curriculum for our school to ensure a comprehensive coverage.

To support assessment of children's understanding teachers assess learning at the end of each term through a range of assessment methods against the geography knowledge and skills taught, on the school non-core assessment grid.

Impact

- Pupils will be enthusiastic geographers
- Pupils will be excited and interested to learn about different countries and cultures
- Pupils will respect other cultures
- Pupils will have visited a variety of settings to develop and provide experiences to support their understanding of human and physical geography
- Pupils will ask questions about an area and complete research to answer their questions
- Pupils will be able to interpret an atlas and map
- Pupils will be able to plan a route using a digital and/or paper ordnance survey map

Impact is measured through both formative and summative assessment opportunities. Assessment data is collated three times a year to inform an end of year judgement which is reported to parents.