



Geography Curriculum

Everyone Learning Together

The Newfield Way

Intent

At Newfield, we aim to provide a high quality, broad, knowledge rich, relevant geography curriculum which will prepare our pupils for their future. Our Geography curriculum is aspirational. We intend to ignite in our pupil's curiosity about Britain and the wider world and foster in them a respect for the environment which will stay with them for the rest of their lives, along with learning skills that can be applied to many future careers.

In selecting curriculum content, we understand the importance of broadening our children's horizons and achieving cultural capital (the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens). We maximize the use of educational visits to support our teaching.

The geography curriculum at Newfield includes substantive and disciplinary content. Substantive knowledge is the building blocks of factual content and vocabulary that enable pupils to move around within their own knowledge in the curriculum. At Newfield, the substantive knowledge in our geography curriculum is broad in scope, meeting and exceeding the requirements of the National Curriculum. It is meticulous in rigour (responsive to up-date scholarship in geography). It is highly coherent. Links are built within and across subjects so that nothing sits in isolation. Units are carefully sequenced to build on prior learning allowing pupils to make connections.

Disciplinary knowledge is the knowledge of how geographers investigate. Pupils learn how knowledge is constantly renewed in the subject's ongoing development by geographers. It teaches pupils that the sum of our knowledge is not fixed but is constantly being tested and renewed. It involves the practice of various subject-specific skills. In studying geography at Newfield pupils will have continuous opportunities for geographical enquiry.

A key aspect of the curriculum is the systematic building of children's vocabulary through subject knowledge. This is intended to ensure that children build upon prior knowledge throughout the years and leave in Year 6 with an extensive vocabulary. Not only does this improve their reading ability but also prepares them for new geographical content in Year 7.

At Newfield Primary School we know that, within the context of SEND, personalisation of the curriculum is key so that each individual's priorities can be considered in order to prepare them adequately for adulthood with the best possible quality of life. Our ambitious curriculum can be successfully adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, developing their knowledge, skills and abilities to apply what they know with increasing fluency and independence. We believe that it is vital that our pupils are equipped with the tools needed to become independent, inquisitive learners in all subjects and that pupils with SEND achieve the very best outcome and reach their full potential.

Implementation

In Key Stage 2 (Year 6 from September 2023) we follow the 'Opening Worlds' Scheme of work. Year 1 and 2 will start to follow the scheme when it becomes available.

Geography is studied for one hour per week. Each lesson is started with a story to intrigue and capture the children's interest. Within each lesson new vocabulary is introduced and previous vocabulary and ideas are revisited to assist recall. New concepts and knowledge are repeated frequently within the lesson to help retention, aided by 'the asking five ways' technique. These are part of the Opening Worlds 10 teaching techniques which reflect Rosenshine's 10 principles of instruction (see appendix 1).

Teachers have good subject knowledge and receive high quality CPD from the 'Opening Worlds' creators. Each unit is accompanied by a high-quality information booklet which supports learning and which children are encouraged to read from during each lesson. Lessons are differentiated to help support pupils with SEND and EAL to achieve the best possible outcomes.

At Newfield we strive to enrich the curriculum with exciting trips, many of which link to geography units being studied. We provide a good selection of books in the library that complement the units being taught.

Key Stage 1 is largely focused on the countries of the UK, London and our school. Each unit is bespoke although we follow the same principles of the 'Opening Worlds' scheme.

Impact

Through our geography curriculum, children will be able to recognise and use earlier learnt vocab with ease, ensuring that they leave Newfield with a richer understanding of words. They will be able to recognise themes that they have encountered before and spot and question patterns in new content making links and comparisons to places and global issues they have already learnt about.

Through our geography curriculum children will be able to think about geographical questions using concepts of place, scale, diversity and variation over space, change, interaction and relationships. They will also be able to tackle questions in which they solve problems concerning place, pattern, position and processes. They will collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that develop their geographical skills and deepen their understanding of geographical processes. In addition, they will be able to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and digital technologies and communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

The majority of pupils are working at age-related expectations in Geography.