

Geography

Rationale

At Cotherstone Primary, it is our intention that Geography is taught on a regular half termly basis throughout the school (see long term plan). Our school is located in a delightful Dales village that has grown from an agricultural community and has been designated as a conservation area in order to help protect its character. It is bounded on two sides by the Rivers Tees and Balder and has surrounding moorland.

Geography is important in our school as it provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. We explore the relationship between Earth and its people. It stimulates curiosity and imagination right from the Early Years through Knowledge and understanding of the world to Year 6. Wherever possible, we aim to build upon the child's 'Personal Geography', core knowledge and progression by developing geographical skills, understanding and knowledge through studying places and themes. Our Geography is enhanced by working alongside local providers such as AONB and the children complete fieldwork in our area.

Intent

At Key Stage 1 children will develop knowledge about their own locality in Teesdale, the United Kingdom and the world. They will understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

At Key Stage 2, pupils extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This includes the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. Our pupils develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Staff will follow their curriculum maps to ensure progression throughout the school. We will monitor progress regularly through book looks, evidence of work and lessons plans. Learning will be sequenced to build knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

Implementation

Geography will be taught on a regular basis by enthusiastic teachers in mixed age classes. We will deliver practical 'hands on' lessons where pupils will complete fieldwork and build upon their prior knowledge and understanding of the world that we live in. Staff continually review and adapt work and learning to meet our children's needs. Through our teaching, resources and visits to our local area, we will attempt to excite and intrigue our children to find out more about the world around them. We will develop deep subject knowledge and key skills while differentiating work for all abilities.

Impact

Our geography curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. We focus on progression of knowledge and skills and discreet vocabulary progression also form part of the units of work. Children will deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and how this affects landscapes and environments.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Images of the children's practical learning.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Moderation staff meetings where pupil's books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.
- Marking of written work in books.