

Stubbins Primary School

Subject Policy for Geography



At Stubbins School, children are at the centre of everything we do. We aim to give our children the best possible opportunities and learning experiences, enabling them to reach their full potential. We aim to ensure that the children in our care are equipped for life-long learning as responsible citizens in an ever-changing, diverse local and world-wide community. **We believe that everyone has the capacity to become great if they have the courage to challenge themselves. By nurturing creativity, enjoyment & ambition; this policy supports our responsibility to make this happen.**

This policy is supported by, and should be read in conjunction with, our Teaching & Learning Policy, The Key Principles of which are that:

1. It is vital that staff have a consistent and shared understanding and approach to promoting learning. However, it is recognised that staff have different styles, strengths, enthusiasms and approaches – this is valuable and to be celebrated and shared.
2. **Agile Teaching**, rooted firmly in the principles of Formative Assessment, is the framework within which learning happens at Stubbins.
3. Teamwork underpins our professional roles. Our success depends on how closely we support and energise each other.
4. We are on a learning journey, and have much to learn from colleagues and other professionals; we learn from our mistakes
5. Teaching is sometimes difficult, and there are always barriers to overcome when promoting learning. However, we are right to be ambitious for what can be achieved, and optimistic that learning can always be enhanced for all our pupils.
6. Each and every pupil has the right to access the very best learning that we are able to offer.
7. We are responsible for providing the guidance, support and expertise necessary for the best learning to take place. 'Working' is not always 'learning' – we should enable our pupils to be active learners.

Learning and teaching is the core business of our school. It is our aim to motivate all our pupils to have high aspirations, to want to do their personal best and to have the desire to be successful in and out of school. We are trying to prepare pupils to be successful in a rapidly changing world that has many challenges; some of which are yet unforeseen. We can only nurture flexible and creative learners if teachers and pupils work in partnership to create a stimulating and successful learning environment.

Thus it is our aim to have pupils involved fully in the learning process thereby promoting an active culture of learning. The Teaching & Learning Policy sets out the principles and expectations behind our learning environment and should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Delivering the Curriculum

Our Policy on delivering the curriculum explains how we ensure that we include every child and use our skills environment to maximise every child's potential. This policy also outlines the areas of learning across the curriculum.

Other Policies which support this subject are:

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Marking Policy**
- **Assessment Policy**
- **SEN Policy**
- **Equality Policy (Duty & Action Plan)**

The main aims of the teaching of Geography.

The teaching of Geography aims to help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. Geography helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

At Stubbins, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Know and understand the Geography of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- Know and understand significant aspects of the Geography of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind
- Gain 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 them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international Geography; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social Geography; and between short- and long-term timescales.

Resources

At Stubbins Primary School, Geography resources are found:

- In classrooms, especially when age or topic specific.
- In the 'Blue Room' next to Year 4 Classroom.
- In the school Library.
- Online

Assessment & Recording

Teachers are expected to make regular assessment of child's progress and to record these systematically. The following is the school policy for assessment in Geography:

Children's work in Geography is recorded in Topic Books and other workbooks as appropriate such as English or Mathematics books. Where work is elsewhere, every effort will be made to record and keep this work; e.g. photographing displays.

We assess Geography using the Key Learning statements in the Lancashire Syllabus. This assessment aims to determine, using a 'best-fit' approach, if children are at the expected standard, above or below. This assessment is also formative, providing information about the aspects in which children need to develop further.

Teachers' records for the assessment of Geography are kept in their assessment file. Examples of these assessments may also be kept by the Geography Subject Leader.

Parental Involvement in Geography

Parents are kept informed about teaching and learning in Geography through:

- A dedicated page on the school website.

- Class newsletters.
- Parents Evenings.
- End of Year reports.

Homework

At Stubbins, homework in Geography is usually part of the Learning Log topic homework which is given at each new topic. Homework which includes strands of Geography may be included in English or Mathematics homework tasks where cross-curricular links allow.

Reporting to Parents

A main report is completed before the end of the summer term and parents are given two smaller reports as well having the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at parents evening in the Autumn and Spring terms.

Subject Leader

The subject leader is responsible for:

- Creating the subject policy.
- Explaining subject expectations to other staff.
- Ensuring the subject policy is followed across the school.
- Monitoring and evaluating attainment & progress in the subject across the school.
- Recording & holding evidence of the quality of teaching & learning in the subject across the school.
- Reporting to the headteacher and/or governing body.

The Governing Body

Our Curriculum Committee has overall responsibility for the delivery of our curriculum, and for ensuring that standards are high. The subject leaders are encouraged to report to this committee on any developments and particular achievements. Governors are encouraged to visit school in order to monitor the curriculum and celebrate successes.

This policy will be reviewed in January 2019

Mr D Richardson

Subject Leader