Learning at River View

Geography

Geography teaching at River View Primary School enables children to understand their world locally to globally, make wise decisions about their responsibility for the planet and its resources and become critical thinkers and responsible citizens. We develop children’s natural excitement and inspire them to take action to protect our wonderful world.

At River View we maximise learning experiences that are right on our doorstep. We value our local area and see it as an excellent opportunity to develop belonging and understanding of the wider world. Our local area is a resource we use to deepen understanding of where we live, how our local area has been shaped by nature,and how the River Irwell dominates our landscape. In each geography unit, there is a planned opportunity to complete fieldwork and take learning out of the classroom.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children learn geography through ‘Understanding the World’. Children are supported to notice and talk about features of the environment around them. They explore the local environment to look for key features such as houses, fields and roads. They will learn that there are different countries in the world through talking about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. During celebrations, such as Diwali and Christmas, the children will take part in discussions about other countries and explore a range of differences to the UK, including food and animals.Children also learn how humans impact the environment by littering and dumping waste. They help the local community by collecting litter and learn about ways to reduce waste and recycle different materials. Investigating human and physical geographical features through exploration, play and technology, gives real meaning to geographic vocabulary and concepts that children learn more about in Year one.

The learning opportunities in each year group have been carefully considered to ensure that teaching is progressive and that prior learning is built upon. The curriculum provides opportunities for children to:

* Learn about their local area, Great Britain and the wider world
* Participate in fieldwork activities which promote geographical knowledge and understanding
* Develop investigative and enquiry based learning
* Use geographical vocabulary which is appropriate and accurate and which develops from EYFS to KS1 and through to KS2
* Collect, analyse and present a range of data
* Use and interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes and aerial photographs
* Participate in activities which promote a greater understanding of their place in the world, and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment
* Develop children’s geography learning through providing them with a range of rich, memorable experiences. These include: field trips to local parks and country parks, the river and the flood basin

Knowledge organisers set out the knowledge and skills that pupils will gain in each area, as well detailing prior learning, key vocabulary and clear end points. Knowledge organisers are used to clarify technical terms and check children’s understanding regularly; they are used by children as a working document.

Geography is taught across two blocks during each year. Careful consideration has been given to the organisation of the curriculum to ensure that it is studied in depth and that natural links across other curriculum areas are exploited.