



# **Grove Vale Primary School**

## **Geography policy 2022**

**Approved by:**

**Date: 12.11.22**

**Last reviewed on:**

**Next review due  
by:**



## **Mission statement linked to Geography**

At Grove Vale, we strive to provide a welcoming, nurturing and caring environment where our pupils can flourish and exceed their potential in all aspects of their development. Our school motto (devised by a pupil) is Together We Grow. At Grove Vale we believe that the learning of Geography should use our core values, aiming to expand our pupils' minds, developing confident, resilient and articulate learners ready for life in the diverse world we live in. We aim to provide a foundation for our pupils to value each other and our community, respecting the rights of each other.

At Grove Vale, Geography stimulates curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We aim to build upon the child's 'personal geography' by developing geographical skills, understanding and knowledge through studying places and themes.

At Grove Vale Geography is a valued part of the curriculum as it provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live.

## **Aims**

- To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality, and the interaction between people and environment.
- To extend their interest, knowledge and understanding of contrasting localities in Britain, Europe and the World.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the human and physical processes which shape places.
- To appreciate similarity and difference in the world around them and to respect other people's beliefs, attitudes and values.
- To develop the geographical skills and vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions.
- To develop interest and enjoyment of geographical experiences and build confidence and understanding.
- To recognise and understand issues concerning the environment and sustainable development.



## **Implementation of Policy**

Geography explores the relationship between the Earth and its people through the study of the physical and human features of Earth, the influence of the environment on human behaviour and lifestyles and the natural resources people use.

At Grove Vale Geography involves:

- Undertaking fieldwork in the local area.
- Comparing and contrasting land-forms, land uses, weather, seasons and ecosystems.
- The use of secondary sources to obtain geographical information, e.g. photos, books, videos and online sources.
- Following directions using positional and directional language, also using these to direct others.
- Expressing and evaluating views on the attractive and unattractive features of the environment, e.g. tidiness, noise, building on greenbelt land.
- Naming the physical features of places, e.g. mountain, sea, beach, factory, valley.
- Using developing language to talk about their work e.g. route, scale, tide, erosion, climate, continent.
- Developing geographical skills of making observations and measuring, recording observations through maps, talk, and writing, taking photographs, sketches and diagrams.
- Using maps, globes, atlases and interpreting photographs.
- Help the children appreciate the variety of responses to the same basic needs (ethnic, cultural and economic) and to imagine what it might be like to experience life in other places.

## **The curriculum-expectations**

### **Coverage and content**

At Grove Vale we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. We use whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions.



We offer children the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, video and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT in Geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.

At Grove Vale children take part in role-play and discussions and then present reports to the rest of the class. Children learn about other places through reading stories with settings in different places and in different landscapes. They make outside visits. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. the research of an environmental problem.

The objectives of Geography teaching in the school are based on the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for Key Stages 1 and 2. The Geography curriculum of the school will therefore help children to experience the following key aspects of the programme of study:

These are:

- Locational Knowledge
- Place Knowledge
- Human & Physical Geography
- Geographical Skills & Field work

In addition, children should have geographical enquiry skills weaved throughout these strands.

### **Recording and assessment**

Year 1 – Yr6: Each child should have a topic book for both History and Geography. All evidence should be recorded in the book; if sheets are used, they need to be stuck into books.

EYFS: Geography work will be recorded in Teacher time books or Tapestry.

Yr1 – Yr6: Geography work should be recorded each session where appropriate (practical work can be photographed or Peer/Self Assessed for Learning Objective).

EYFS - Should have evidence of Geography whether it be through writing, drawing, observations or photographs when Geography work is being carried out.

For Key stage 1 and 2 a learning objective grid should be used. This should include the learning objective of the lesson; along with the success criteria and a 'picture prompt' to support children. Each lesson should have a retrieval, 'I can still...' question so children can revisit previous Geography objectives on a regular basis.



At Grove Vale we assess the children's work in Geography by making informal judgements as we observe the children during lessons. Once the children complete a unit of work, we make a summary judgement of the work for children and consider whether they have yet to obtain, obtained or exceeded the expectations of the unit. We record assessments on Insight and use these to plan future work.

### **Health and Safety**

At Grove Vale children are taught:

- Safe practices in the field and how to achieve them.
- How to use equipment in accordance with health and safety guidelines.
- To behave considerably and responsibly, showing respect for other people and their environment whilst on trips outside the classroom.

Teachers:

- Ensure risk assessments are completed before any field trips are agreed.
- Discuss all planned trips with the Headteacher.
- Ensure adequate supervision is organised for all field work.

**At Grove Vale the role of the Geography Coordinator is to:**

- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content and developing the detail within each unit.
- Renew, update and complement resources needed to deliver the curriculum, within budget restraints.
- Audit current practice.
- Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity.
- Keep abreast of developments in Geography education and media usage

### **Geography and ICT**

At Grove Vale ICT plays an integral part in the teaching and learning of Geography. Clear links to ICT are made in planning and every opportunity to explore links with ICT is used.

### **Differentiation**



At Grove Vale we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school.

### **More Able Learners**

More able learners will be identified as part of our formative and summative assessment procedures. We will provide for their needs through a framework of high quality first teaching which focuses on ensuring the children are challenged appropriately. In addition, we will focus on developing their learning behaviours, including, greater reflection, problem solving and enquiry, making connections, higher order thinking skills and independent learning. The progress of more able learners will be rigorously tracked to ensure more able children reach their full potential

### **Equal Opportunities**

At Grove Vale all children will be given equal access to Geography irrespective of race, gender and creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of Geography.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

To monitor and evaluate Geography the Geography subject co-ordinator does the following:

- Meets with the curriculum lead and other subject leads at regular intervals to ensure consistency and progression in subjects and to support one another.
- Supports teachers via ideas for planning, teaching and assessment.
- Monitors teachers' medium-term planning.
- Reviews resource provision.
- Works co-operatively with the SENCo.
- Discusses regularly with the curriculum lead and the headteacher with implementing this policy in school.

