

# Lowca Community School

# Geography policy

## **RATIONALE:**

Geography education at Lowca community School prepares our pupils, encouraging curiosity and sparking fascination, to engage and understand other people and the world around them. Teaching is organised to engage pupils in a study of local and diverse places, people, resources and both natural and human environments. This study is sequenced to promote progression as the child grows and moves from class to class. A clear and deep understanding of Earth's physical and human processes enable pupils to make sense of the world around them. The ambitious curriculum is designed to progress pupils' geographical skills, understanding and knowledge from local to regional, national and international environments. Geographical processes are explored including the interaction between physical and human factors and features. Skills such as map reading and IT tools are developed to enrich the pupil's geographical capabilities. This enables our pupils to understand how our environment is shaped, interrelated and changed and helps them explore complex environmental issues such as pollution and climate change.

## **AIMS:**

Our curriculum makes cross curricular links to facilitate an education which encourages children to connect learning in different subjects and make learning links. It aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop curiosity and fascination about the world and its people;
- acquire geographical knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments; widen the use and understanding of geographical vocabulary;
- explore in depth the Earth's key human and physical processes and the interaction between these processes;
- understand the formation and use of landscapes and environments;
- raise questions and search for answers about the natural and human aspects of the world;
- systematically grow key geographical skills through practical activities, research, lessons with specific learning points and fieldwork;
- interpret a range of geographical sources including maps, atlases, diagrams, aerial photographs, globes and Google maps, street view, as well as visits to different contrasting locations.

## **ORGANISATION & CONTENT OF THE CURRICULUM**

At Lowca community School, children investigate and interpret their world, developing their skills of enquiry, analysis and problem-solving. Geography is taught through a weekly explicit session, in both KS1 and KS2, as part of half-termly topics, focusing on the knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. Cross-curricular links are used to embed skills further in other areas of the curriculum where this is appropriate.

### **EYFS**

Children engage with geography through themes and activities which focus on the statutory guidance statements for Understanding the World (People, Culture and Communities). This supports the teaching of the Early Years curriculum and the achievement of the Early Learning Goals. The children learn about people and places that are familiar to them, for example home, school, ways of life, family, friends and the natural world. EYFS pupils are taught in a variety of ways through adult-led and supported tasks and child-initiated learning in provision areas. When planning, leading, extending or supporting learning, staff foster The Characteristics of Effective Learning.

### **KEY STAGE 1**

During this Key Stage, teaching and learning focuses upon the key stage 1 aims and programmes of study of the National Curriculum. This includes locational knowledge, Place knowledge, Human and Physical Geography as well as skills and fieldwork. Children learn about the countries and capitals of the UK before exploring the world's continents and oceans. A local area is contrasted with an area further away to look for similarities and differences and explore why, it is as it is. The expansion of the children's geographical knowledge encourages a wider vocabulary and subject content, which is detailed in our learning ladders. It also takes account of the children's own questions and areas of enquiry.

### **KEY STAGE 2**

Building upon the increased knowledge, skills and vocabulary developed previously, children extend their understanding to cover the programmes of study of the key stage 2 national Curriculum, outlined in our long term curriculum plan. The locational, place knowledge and the human and physical geography, are taught through a cross curricular theme. This theme links the timetabled subjects so pupils can develop and practise their geography on a weekly basis and make links in their learning.

### **INCLUSION**

Equality of opportunity at Lowca community School ensures that all children, gain access to a curriculum that is supportive of their needs and that values the rich similarities and differences of our world's cultures. It explores the human and natural effects on our world, considering positive and negative consequences of geographical changes that happen. With engaging sequential lessons that promote progression and an approach that also gives space to follow pupil's questions and interests, all children are able to enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that celebrates all children's curiosity, skills and global diversity and skills.

### **LINKS WITH OTHER AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM**

Geography at Lowca community School is recognised as a key focus for the development of British Values, global citizenship and cultural understanding. Geography skills and knowledge are a clear focus in teaching and learning and judgement about progress towards end of year expectations help us monitor progress to evaluate teaching techniques and identify pupils who may need additional support to meet them . A wide range of enrichment opportunities exist, including field work to local venues of interest, speakers and other visits and visitors.

### **MONITORING**

Monitoring of Geography will occur annually and will include:

- Lesson observations and mentoring opportunities from the subject co-ordinator;
- Discussions with pupils;
- Book scrutiny;
- Discussions in staff meetings
- Attainment in Geography is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Geography subject leader annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Headteacher/Governors.