



**Burscough Bridge  
Methodist Primary  
School**

**Geography Policy**

## **Mission Statement**

**'Let Your Light shine to all'**

**(John Wesley)**

**Through exciting opportunities in lessons and the wider curriculum our children become well rounded, caring changemakers in our world. Each child is at the heart of all we do to ensure they become the best they can be and are meant to be.**

## **Intent**

The intent of our Geography curriculum at Burscough Bridge Methodist School is to provide our pupils with the opportunity and means to explore, appreciate and understand the world we live in and how it has evolved. It contributes to the cultural, spiritual and moral life of children as they acquire knowledge of a range of different cultures and traditions and learn tolerance, understanding of other people and environments. Geography can encourage pupils to think about their own place in the world, their values, and their responsibilities to other people and to the Earth. It can be used very effectively to enhance many other areas of the curriculum including English, Maths, Computing and PHSE.

## **Aims**

At Burscough Bridge it is our aim to inspire our pupils to develop an interest and fascination about the world, its people and different geographical processes. Knowledge about diverse places, peoples and environments is the key, whilst also developing their skills in enquiry and investigation.

We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop a curiosity of places and people both locally, nationally and globally.
- To stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and develop a knowledge and understanding of the physical and human processes which shape places.
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To provide learning opportunities that enthuse, engage, and motivate children to learn and foster a sense of curiosity and wonder at the beauty of the world around them.

- To encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means.
- To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality and the interaction between people and the environment.
- To develop the geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps of different scales, and the vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To be able to apply map reading skills to globes and atlas maps and identify geographical features and to make use of digital mapping skills.
- To formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions.
- To enable children to work geographically in a range of appropriate contexts, using a variety of materials and equipment including other people's experiences and knowledge.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Geography at Burscough Bridge Methodist School is taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children can achieve depth in their learning. Key skills and knowledge have been identified to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. At the beginning of topics children are able to convey what they know already and as well as what they would like to find out. This helps to inform programmes of study, ensuring that lessons are relevant and take into account children's prior knowledge and different starting points. In order to support the children in their ability to know more and remember more, there are opportunities to review the learning that has taken place. Children are given clear success criteria in order to achieve the learning intention with different elements of independence.

## **Teaching and Learning**

A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged when delivering the Geography curriculum:

- Teacher presentations and whole class teaching.
- Enquiry based research activities.
- Question and answer sessions, discussions and debates.
- Individual and group presentations.
- Investigating maps and photographs.
- Use of computing and digital mapping, internet etc
- Critical analysis and evaluation of different sources of evidence.

- Fieldwork and use of the school grounds.
- Visits in the local environment to explore human and physical features.

## **EYFS**

Geography is taught in the Early Years as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years curriculum. Geography makes a significant contribution to the Early Learning Goal objectives in developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as finding out about different places and habitats and investigating our locality.

## **Key Stage 1**

During Key Stage 1, pupils investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United Kingdom or abroad, finding out about their local environment in both areas and the people who live there. They also begin to learn about the wider world. They carry out geographical enquiry, asking questions about people, places and environments, and use geographical skills and resources such as maps and photographs.

## **Key Stage 2**

During Key Stage 2, pupils investigate a variety of people, places and environments in the United Kingdom and abroad, and start to make links between different places in the world. They find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. Children will develop geographical skills, including asking geographical questions, collecting and recording information and identifying different views. They will acquire appropriate practical skills associated with Geography, including using suitable vocabulary, fieldwork techniques and maps, plans and atlases. Pupils will use secondary sources of information with accuracy, including aerial photographs, satellite images etc. As well as making its own distinctive contribution to the school curriculum, geography contributes to the wider aims of primary education.

## **Geography Curriculum Planning**

We use the national curriculum scheme of work for Geography as the basis for our curriculum. We plan the topics in Geography so that they build on prior learning. We are an inclusive school and differentiation is incorporated into planning so that children of all abilities have the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. Through planned progression we offer them an increasing challenge as they move up through the school.

## **The Contribution of Geography to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas**

Our curriculum enables us to teach in a cross-curricular manner where appropriate. Throughout school Geography is taught both discretely and in a cross-curricular way. The curriculum can promote learning across a number of areas such as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, key skills and thinking skills.

### **English**

Geography makes a significant contribution to the teaching of English in our school because it actively promotes the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Reports, letters and recording information will all develop children's writing ability.

### **Mathematics**

Geography contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. For example, children learn to represent objects with maps, they study space, scale and distance and learn to use grid references.

### **Computing**

Children use ICT to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work. They research information through the internet (safe search is used) We also offer children the opportunity to use the digital camera to record and use photographic images. Bee-Bots (small programmable robots) are used for direction and mapping work.

### **Personal, Moral, Social and Health Education (PHSE) and Citizenship**

Geography can inspire pupils to develop their concept of themselves as a global citizen and become aware of a range of issues which would be beyond their own experience. Children study the way people recycle materials and how environments are changed for better or worse and the impact an individual can make. The nature of the subject provides the opportunity to take part in discussions which in turn promotes the concept of positive citizenship.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

We offer children in our school opportunities to examine the fundamental questions in life through the medium of Geography such as changing landscapes and the evolution of the planet. We encourage the children to reflect on the impact of mankind on our world and through teaching about contrasting localities we enable children to learn about inequality and injustice in the world.

## **Inclusion and the Geography Curriculum**

At Burscough Bridge Methodist School we teach Geography to all children whatever their ability. Geography forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We provide learning opportunities that match the needs of the individual.

Teachers take account of the three principles of inclusion that are set out in the National Curriculum:

- Setting suitable learning challenges.

- Responding to the diverse learning needs of pupils.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils in order to narrow the gap.

### **Equal Opportunities**

It is the responsibility of all teachers at Burscough Bridge Methodist School to ensure that children irrespective of ability, race, gender, age, faith, sexual orientation and disability are given full access to the Geography curriculum and make the greatest possible progress.

### **Assessment**

At Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Assessment is used to inform planning and facilitate differentiation. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding has been achieved. Feedback is given to the children and marking will be guided by the school's marking policy.

### **IMPACT**

The impact of the Geography curriculum will lead to progress over time across key stages relative to a child's individual starting point and their progression of skills. Children will therefore be expected to leave Burscough Bridge Methodist School reaching at least age-related expectations for Geography. Our curriculum will also lead to pupils being enthusiastic Geography learners evidenced in a variety of ways including books, photographs and outdoor learning opportunities.