



South Bank Primary School Curriculum Statement

Geography

2023/2024

Subject Leader: Kirsty Willans

Intent

At South Bank Primary School, we aim to deliver a high-quality geography curriculum, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits, which inspires in pupils a curiosity about the world and its people. We wish to instil a love for geography in our pupils and develop their knowledge of the world, as well as their place within it, and encourage them to undertake new experiences throughout their life. We aim to provide all pupils with opportunities to investigate and build geographical expertise from their local area to the wider world. This includes locational knowledge, understanding of human and physical features and geographical and fieldwork techniques. We will encourage pupils to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems within the local community and the wider world. Increasing awareness of environmental issues and the impact humans have aims to encourage pupils to become reflective members of society who consider their actions/choices and actively invest in protecting the planet.

Implementation

At South Bank Primary the Early Years it is the first opportunity to see how a child interacts with their environment and how the environment influences them. Staff follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework which aims to guide children, to make sense of their physical world and their community by allowing them to explore, observe and use technology to find out about people, places and the environment – this is the first step of becoming a geographer. In KS1 and KS2, teachers maintain strong links to the National Curriculum guidelines to ensure all aspects, knowledge and skills of Geography are being taught across all year groups. Geography lessons are planned coherently, using the skills progressions, to build pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world and the interaction between physical and human processes through quality first teaching. Children are able to build geographical expertise from their local area and expand this to the wider world. This includes locational knowledge, understanding of human and physical features and geographical and fieldwork techniques. Opportunities to develop their skills and fieldwork using maps and atlases (both physical and digital) will be provided for all pupils. At the end of KS1, the children access Adventure Week which is an opportunity for the children to experience different local areas using various Geographical skills. Fieldwork allows pupils to apply geographical skills in a real-life setting and explore their local area and the features within it. We will develop deep subject knowledge and key skills while differentiating work for all abilities. From EYFS up to the end of KS2, pupils will be taught various geographical terms both in our local area and worldwide. Geography assessment is ongoing and informs teachers with planning lesson activities and differentiation; it will be tracked against the geography progression of skills objectives. All lessons are planned using skills progressions so that knowledge is taught across the year group; skills are progressed across the key stage with connections made to prior learning. At South Bank Primary, we use a variety of social media and news outlets to inform pupils of worldwide events that are being reported in the news (e.g. natural disasters) this further builds their understanding of physical geography and place knowledge through class discussions. School trips offer children an enriched geography curriculum as children will have the opportunity to explore areas outside of their locality. Whether the trip is a day visit to the museum or a residential in London, children are able to explore new geographical areas, which will then be built upon through further discussion in the classroom environment.

Impact

At South Bank Primary, the impact of quality first teaching in geography will foster a love and enthusiasm for the subject. Well-constructed and well-taught lessons provide pupils with opportunities to research and apply skills independently – skills essential for lifelong learning. Book scrutiny indicates high expectations and reflect what pupils have learned to a good/very good standard. All learning builds towards clearly defined end points that are met. Pupils will leave South Bank Primary at the end of KS2 with a strong knowledge of their local area and a confidence of the location of other countries and cities around the world. All pupils will be able to discuss and recall a variety of events and where they happened in the world, as well as be able to explain aspects of human and physical geography and confidently use maps and atlases (physical and digital). Knowledge and skills will have developed progressively to not only enable them to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum but to prepare pupils to become competent geographers in secondary education. We want the pupils at South Bank Primary School to have thoroughly enjoyed learning about geography, therefore encouraging them to undertake new life experiences now and in the future. Summative assessment is completed twice a year and progress is tracked using Target Tracker. Pupil voice is also used to enable leaders to assess the impact of the geography curriculum and whether pupils have a greater understanding of how to access and use geographical skills and knowledge with a greater degree of confidence and competence. Classroom teachers also have an opportunity to voice their opinions as to whether the National Curriculum statements are meeting the needs of the children they are teaching – at South Bank Primary School we deliver quality first teaching, which ensures the needs of every child is being met in each subject. Evidence of geography work can be seen in floor books, across the curriculum or is saved in the class team folder. Ongoing monitoring throughout the year compliments specific assessments.