GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM STATEMENT

Intent

At Hamilton Academy we believe Geography to be an essential part of our curriculum, and one that will inspire in our pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We want to equip them with not just the knowledge and skills outlined in the geography National Curriculum, but also to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We want our children to use our local area, surrounded by the Chiltern Hills, to learn about landscapes, human interaction with physical features and to appreciate what we have, and in so doing develop their sense of place in the community and the wider world. We aim to allow pupils to spend time in nature, to feel connected to their local environment and to develop a passion about protecting the natural world.

Implementation

Geography is normally taught in blocks over a half term. This helps to ensure sufficient time is allocated to explore specific knowledge and geographic subject matter can be revisited frequently. Within each topic, children are exposed to rich language and opportunities to embed new vocabulary. We believe that by implementing our curriculum in this way, we improve the potential for our children to retain what they have been taught, to alter their long-term memory and thus improve the rates of progress they make. Through using a variety of sources, children develop their knowledge and curiosity of the wider world.

Having a sense of identity and community are important aspects of the geography curriculum and we strive to provide numerous opportunities for the children to develop their links with and understanding of their local community. These include visits to Hughenden Manor, walks in the Chiltern Hills and involvement in community events such as the annual Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Parish Church. Geography in our school is closely linked to the History of our local area, this provides greater understanding of the importance of our location.

Respect is one of our school values. The understanding of and respect for the social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of their own country and the wider world is further developed through the RE and PSHE curriculum.

Knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and the children's sense of responsibility for caring for the environment is further developed through activities and initiatives led by our eco-warriors.

Impact

To measure the impact, we have key of year learning objectives and staff also use these as assessment statements. Staff are therefore fully aware of the expectations of all children. We use formative assessment in every geography lesson. This information can then be used to inform their short-term planning to revisit and review learning. Cumulative quizzing at the start of every lesson based on their previous learning is an essential way of judging understanding and development in geography.