

## **Policy for Geography**

### **Introduction**

- This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning Geography at Skelton Junior School.
- It was developed during the summer of 2001 through a process of consultation with the Humanities working party

### **What is Geography?**

- Geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to people, places and environments at different scales, in the United Kingdom and overseas, and an appreciation of how places relate to each other and the wider world.

### **Aims**

Our aims in teaching Geography are that it will

- Stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and in the variety of human and physical conditions on the earth's surface.
- Foster children's sense of wonder at the beauty of the world around them.
- Help children to develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment and the future of the human habitat.
- Enhance children's sense of responsibility for the care of the earth and its people.

### **National Curriculum**

- Geography is a foundation subject in the national Curriculum. The fundamental knowledge and concepts of the subject are set out in the National Curriculum where they are categorised into seven programmes of study.

### **Strategies for the teaching of Geography**

- The mode of working is a mixture of class teaching, individual work and cooperative group work.
- Relevant discussion is encouraged.
- There is no specialist teaching in Geography, it is taught by class teachers.
- Classroom assistants are used to help when available.
- Schemes of work are broadly based on the QCA scheme.
- Excellence in Geography is celebrated in display.

### **Pupils with special needs**

- Pupils with difficulties in learning are given differentiated work when appropriate.
- Pupil's with a particular flair and ability for geography are given the opportunity to extend their knowledge and skills.

### **Strategies for ensuring Progress and Continuity**

- The foundation for curricular planning is developed through a process of collaboration between staff, and approved by governors.
- Schemes of work are developed by the working party using QCA guidelines and adapted for the needs of the school.
- Work plans are drawn up by year group teams for each half term and monitored by the humanities team.

### **The role of the working party for Humanities is to**

- Take the lead in policy development and the production of schemes of work designed to ensure progression and continuity in Geography throughout the school.
- Monitor progress by developing a portfolio of work.
- Support colleagues in their development of work plans and implementation of the scheme of the work and in assessment and record keeping activities.
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for Geography.

### **Strategies for recording and reporting**

- Topics studied within each year group are recorded on assessment sheets which will indicate each child's understanding of the work covered.
- Children's performance is reported to parents termly at consultation evenings and annually through a written report.

### **Information Technology**

- Information technology is an important resource to enhance children's learning of Geography.

### **Health and Safety issues**

- Risk assessments must be undertaken by staff prior to any visits outside the classroom. Teachers will be able to refer for guidance to the school Health and Safety policy, national guidelines and information given by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.