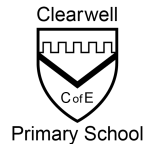


Geography

Curriculum Intent



Geography is interwoven into our everyday life as we think about our own environments around us. It is important to learn about the past, ask questions about how landscapes have changed and compare different world environments/climates to understand how different societies have been shaped.

At Clearwell C of E Primary School, we aim to deliver a high-quality Geography education which makes full use of the resources within the immediate and wider local area, enabling children to develop an understanding of their locality and how this compares to other localities around the world. Topics are informed by the National Curriculum 2014 and are taught on a 3-year rolling programme in Key stage 1 and on a 4-year rolling programme in Key stage 2. In line with the National curriculum, we aim to ensure that all pupils access high quality geography education which inspires in pupils:

"a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time..."

Today we are being **geographers**.

We are learning **geography**.

Good geographers...

- Learn about places – their location and their physical and human characteristics
- Do fieldwork to gather information
- Use maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems
- Communicate geographically including through maps, data and in writing using vocabulary for experts

Intent of learning Geography at Clearwell

Geography is a rich and diverse subject that gives children the opportunity to learn about diverse places, people, resources, environments and the effect of mankind. It inspires curiosity and fascination about the world from an early age. By studying the beauty of Earth, we can fascinate, inspire and create globally aware pupils. Geography is, by nature, an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills.

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Whilst the importance of geographical knowledge is recognised, we also enable children to become lifelong geographers who have the skills and attitudes to continue to appreciate the world around them. Throughout the Geography curriculum at Clearwell C of E Primary, children will learn the Earth's key physical and human processes. They will deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and how this affects landscapes and environments. Many contemporary challenges – climate change, food security, energy choices – cannot be understood without a geographical perspective.

We also understand that Geography has many links with history, so where appropriate geographical skills are taught along-side an historical topic. Pupils are taught to communicate and decipher information by using maps, images of people and place, numerical data and graphical modes of communication, and getting to grips with the geographic information systems (GIS) that underpin our lives, make geographers skilful and employable. They will also develop important geographical skills, such as being able to use a compass and four figure grid references to describe a location.

We spend time in our local environment which enhances their understanding of the environment and eco-systems.

The curriculum intends to promote Christian values

Clearwell CofE Primary school is a church school that prides itself on teaching Christian values throughout its curriculum and the wider life of school. As a church school, the children learn about Christian values, as well as those of other faiths, in order to prepare them as caring and considerate members of society. All values are nurtured and highlighted throughout all teaching and are fundamental to the children's attitudes towards learning. They help support a growth mindset and help build relationships and attitudes beyond the curriculum. Periods of reflection and worship support learning attitudes and the ability for children to understand how Christian Values can aid learning new skills; acquiring new knowledge and supporting others to do the same.

When learning about our world, we will develop understanding of the changes taking place in the natural world and how humans are responsible for some of these changes. This links to Christian belief that humans are custodians of God's creation.

The curriculum intends to be experience based

It is recognised that children start school with a wide range of different experiences. The curriculum is planned to extend and enhance these experiences. An in-depth knowledge of each child allows staff to plan individual programmes and experiences to fill in any gaps in developmental progress. Staff ensure children's learning, where possible, is based on hands-on experiences; meeting visitors who can inspire children and visiting places of interest which ensure children have first-hand experiences.

As frequently as possible, we look for opportunities to engage in fieldwork in our local area.

The curriculum intends to use technology to enhance learning

We recognise that in a society that relies so heavily on technology, we have a duty to prepare our pupils to operate effectively and safely in the modern world. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to learn

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Curriculum Intent



about how technology can be used to enhance learning and awaken interest in the possibilities that exist now and those that might follow in the future.

Technology is used to promote learning and the acquisition of skills and knowledge in all subjects. It enables pupils to carry out online research and to visit different parts of the world digitally. Google Earth is used frequently to develop an understanding of locality on a local and global scale.

The curriculum intends to raise self-esteem and self-confidence

Throughout all aspects of school life staff promote a can-do attitude and celebrate the successes, resilience, perseverance and progress of all children. This is particularly apparent at Clearwell as, due to our small numbers, all children are given the opportunity to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence. Clearwell recognises the opportunities that small school teaching can provide and promotes mixed age learning to support and challenge all pupils. The curriculum is structured to provide the children with the opportunity to experience their full entitlement in a supportive environment that celebrates perseverance and resilience to challenge. We recognise that some children may need support to maintain their well-being and we will seek to do this in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

Geography is a subject which provides opportunities for pupils to discover the wider world around them. It affords us with a context in which to celebrate the diverse backgrounds and culture of the members of our school community.

The curriculum focusses on the core skills of Reading, Writing and Maths

Staff recognise that for children to succeed beyond the classroom the skills of reading, writing and maths are crucial. Children start school with a range of levels of understanding and development for their age group. The school recognises some children will need extra support in order to close these gaps. Staff work closely with parents and carers to help children succeed.

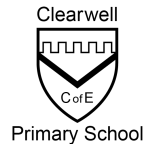
In order to find out about the world, pupils need to be able to use their reading and writing skills to access information online or in other texts and to communicate what they have learned. Maths is a subject which is used frequently in geography when collecting, presenting and interpreting data. An understanding of distance and measurement is also a key element of both maths and geography.

The curriculum has a clearly mapped out progression of skills and knowledge

Staff recognise that in order for children to learn effectively, it is important that the taught curriculum is carefully mapped out. The rolling programme of three and four-year curriculum cycles allow children to acquire and develop these skills, revisiting them and reinforcing them continually. This ensures that long term acquisition of skills and knowledge is embedded. Each curriculum area has been considered to ensure that the benefits of mixed age teaching can be maximised whilst still providing adequate challenge and progression within each key phase of primary education.

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The school uses the Grammarsaurus scheme for geography which has a progression of skills embedded in it. This is adapted to reflect the mixed age organisation of our school.

The curriculum has a focus on developing Speech and Language

Some children enter school with Speech and Language development below the expected level. As such, staff tailor the curriculum to prioritise this aspect and utilise opportunities both within formal and informal learning. From the first weeks at Clearwell, children are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills through performance, stories, singing, rhymes and role play. The unique set up of multi-age classes means that the children have role models to imitate and learn from. The development of oracy skills is key in developing the ability to communicate in writing.

Pupils are encouraged to articulate their thoughts and ideas verbally before recording their understanding. The importance of understanding and using subject-specific vocabulary is promoted constantly in lessons.

The curriculum intends to use technology to enhance learning

We recognise that in a society that relies so heavily on technology, we have a duty to prepare our pupils to operate effectively and safely in the modern world. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about how technology can be used to enhance learning and awaken interest in the possibilities that exist now and those that might follow in the future.

Technology is used to promote learning and the acquisition of skills and knowledge in all subjects. The use of google maps can support pupils in understanding different views of our world.

The Impact of learning Geography at Clearwell

- Pupils will communicate their knowledge of the world confidently and in a range of formats. Compare and contrast human and physical features to describe and understand similarities and differences between various places in the UK, Europe and the Americas.
- Name, locate and understand where and why the physical elements of our world are located and how they interact, including processes over time relating to climate, biomes, natural disasters and the water cycle.
- Understand how humans use the land for economic and trading purposes, including how the distribution of natural resources has shaped this.
- Develop an appreciation for how humans are impacted by and have evolved around the physical geography surrounding them and how humans have had an impact on the environment, both positive and negative.
- Develop a sense of location and place around the UK and some areas of the wider world using the eight-points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys on maps, globes, atlases, aerial photographs and digital mapping.
- Identify and understand how various elements of our globe create positioning, including latitude, longitude, the hemispheres, the tropics and how time zones work, including night and day.