Upperwood Academy Approach to

Teaching of Geography

Intent

Our Geography Curriculum at Upperwood academy identifies the substantive knowledge that is to be learned, which considers the 5 interlinked concepts:

- Places & Locations
- Environments & Topography
- People & Settlements
- Weather and Climate
- Map and Fieldwork

In addition to this, our children learn the disciplinary knowledge required to consider how geographical knowledge originates and is revised. It is through disciplinary knowledge that pupils learn the practices of geographers. Lessons of geography are taught discretely at Upperwood academy to ensure depth and rigour in geographical concepts and context.

Pupils are taught the specific content they need to be successful geographers and these skills are integrated into the curriculum so that pupils understand their application. Throughout our curriculum planning, repeated and revisited practice of geographical skills ensures improvements in pupils' fluency and accuracy. The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills through which the children are helped to grow and develop to succeed in 21st century Britain. Geography at Upperwood academy is delivered through knowledge rich and practical skill-based units of work designed by Geography and Curriculum Leaders to ensure that all children have the opportunity to study a range of concepts, locations and applications of Geography which build upon their prior knowledge and understanding. The Geography Curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, imaginative and ambitious and meets the needs of individual learners by can easily be adapted for pupils with additional needs.

Implementation

At Upperwood academy, lessons of geography will be taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour in geographical concepts and context. The Geography Curriculum is rich and varied and provides our pupils with the skills required for life in the 21st Century. The Accelerated Learning Cycle, based on the work of Alastair Smith, is applied in all lessons. It stems from the idea of a supportive and challenging learning environment. The cycle has active engagement through multi- sensory learning, encourages the demonstrating understanding of learning in a variety of ways and the consolidation of knowing. Our knowledge organisers support the planning and delivery of lessons to ensure children develop a deep, sequential understanding of specific knowledge and are able to apply these in a range of situations. A gather, skills, apply approach to planning and delivery of lessons is taken across school to ensure children develop a deep understanding of specific skills and are able to apply these in a range of situations. This ensures that children learn how to work like a Geographer as well as acquiring the relevant knowledge and skills to be able to achieve this successfully.

Impact

At Upperwood Academy , formative assessment is ongoing throughout each lesson. It judges progress and enables teachers to make flexible adaptions to their planned teaching. Through this regular ongoing assessment, tasks are matched to the ability of each child through scaffolds, adult support and providing a level of challenge that is stimulating for pupils and questioning skills. Alongside formative assessment, Arbor is used as a summative assessment to assess foundation subjects. The analysis of data from Arbor, identifies any gaps or misconceptions to be addressed.

Adaptations

At Upperwood Academy our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those children with SEND. Curriculum designers and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve and the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for SEND pupils. Every pupil is different and so what works for each pupil varies. Pupil's individual needs are carefully considered and adaptations are planned to ensure the success of pupils. The way that our curriculum is designed ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced in a coherent way to enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. Cognitive overload can be a barrier to learning which is one of the reason why we have chosen half termly curriculum drivers.

Where pupils are identified with having complex needs it may be appropriate to provide a personalised curriculum which will be based on individual needs and will retain ambition for the pupil. Where working memory is an issue for pupils, including those with SEND, we look to reduce extraneous load as much as possible as well as identifying key information when teaching. Adaptations to support individual pupils will be recorded on personal school support plans.

At Upperwood academy we do not assume that pupils with SEND learn content better through practical work as this can cause distraction and cognitive overload rather than increase clarity or accessibility. The curriculum is not narrowed for any pupils. Knowledge is taught and then pupils are provided with opportunities for scientific enquiry to test and investigate the knowledge taught. Pupils' specific needs determine the types of adaptations which are required. These adaptations are in how the subject is taught rather than the content pupils are expected to learn. Where appropriate, learning will be chunked into smaller steps and pre learning and consolidation time in planned in to support need. Time is also planned to ensure pupils with SEND are pre taught vocabulary to support their understanding. Adaptations may include supporting pupils to pay attention to key aspects as well as reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory.