

DEEP DIVE:

Curriculum area: Geography



'Excellence Every day'



INTRODUCTION

Our curriculum is at the heart of our educational provision, offering a broad and exciting daily offer to ignite a love of learning in all of our pupils.

Our vision is focused on ambition, aspiration and progression and this is delivered through our curriculum model.

All of our pupils have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning and experiences which enrich their classroom activities. This may be through trips, external visitors to the schools or virtual experiences as well as workshops. Our aim is to close the gap in disadvantage and offer all pupils an inspiring provision which gives equal access to all.

Learning in **Illuminate Minds Trust schools** is more than the acquisition of skills and knowledge. It is also the chance to widen opportunities and expose pupils to a world beyond their lived experiences. We see our role as preparing children and young people for life and society, helping to build sustainable communities where people care about each other and the world around them.

Every subject area has a curriculum which is constructed carefully around sequential learning, revising prior learning and recognising the links between this and future steps. Embedded within each area are enrichment experiences, references to career choices and links to cultures and backgrounds which reflect our pupil population.

Choice is central to our learning offer. Our schools want to equip pupils with the confidence to make their own choices and exposure to experiences which inform those choices. You cannot consider a path in life of which you are unaware.

In order to grow and develop, it is vital that our pupils have the confidence and motivation to accept challenges and recognise that learning is not always easy. We want our pupils to face challenges without fear and know that they can make mistakes, because life will throw things at them and they have the ability to solve problems and overcome them. Success breeds success. Having confidence through actually seeing you can achieve and you can find a way through difficulties is key in continually building the self-awareness and resilience which will enable our pupils to manage themselves through life. Recognising the value of education and knowing that life is about continual learning means that loving learning from the outset is vital. Our curriculum in every subject is shaped to take children on that journey....

CURRICULUM AREA: GEOGRAPHY

Intent

At Illuminate Minds, our geography curriculum allows children to develop a deep understanding of the world around them and their place within it. Our curriculum builds pupils' knowledge of places, people, environments and the processes that shape our world, from their immediate locality to the wider world. Our geography curriculum is designed to foster curiosity and inspire pupils to ask questions about the world around them. Children develop their understanding of both human and physical geography while building the geographical knowledge and skills required to investigate places, recognise patterns and make connections. Carefully planned learning enables children to explore geography on a local, national and global scale and consider the relationships between people, places and environments. Above all, we want our pupils to be curious about the world, develop a love of geography and recognise their role within an increasingly interconnected world.

Implementation

Our sequential curriculum allows pupils to build geographical knowledge and skills progressively from the Early Years Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2. Children develop secure locational and place knowledge alongside an increasingly sophisticated understanding of human and physical geography.

Geographical skills and fieldwork are embedded throughout the curriculum. Pupils develop from using simple maps, photographs, directional language and observational skills to using atlases, globes, digital mapping, Ordnance Survey maps, compass points and increasingly complex grid references. Fieldwork provides opportunities for children to observe, measure, record and present geographical information using a range of methods.

Impact

Children develop a secure and increasingly connected understanding of the world, its people, places and environments. They are able to draw upon prior learning to make connections between geographical concepts and apply their knowledge across different locations and scales.

Children use geographical vocabulary accurately and apply increasingly sophisticated geographical skills to locate, investigate, compare and interpret places. They are able to use maps and geographical information with confidence, undertake fieldwork and use evidence to identify patterns, explain processes and draw conclusions.

Through their geographical learning, children develop an understanding of the relationship between people and the environment and are able to consider geographical issues and their impact on communities and the wider world.



CURRICULUM AREA: GEOGRAPHY

Cultural Capital

Trips, fieldwork and first-hand experiences are an important part of our geography curriculum, allowing children to apply their geographical knowledge and skills beyond the classroom. Pupils explore their local area alongside places across the UK and wider world, widening their knowledge of places and environments beyond their own lived experiences.

Equality and Diversity

Our geography curriculum exposes children to a diverse range of places, cultures and communities. Pupils explore similarities and differences between places and develop an appreciation of how people live across the world, challenging stereotypes and developing respect for others.

Our SEND Approach

Our carefully sequenced geography curriculum supports all pupils to build secure knowledge and make connections with prior learning. Regular retrieval, explicit vocabulary teaching and the use of maps, photographs and practical resources help make geographical concepts accessible. Quality First Teaching is at the heart of all lessons, with appropriate adaptations and scaffolds enabling all pupils to access the curriculum and develop their geographical knowledge and skills.

