

## **Geography at Ramsbury School**

At Ramsbury School we are global explorers and eco warriors. Throughout the school, we have varied and rich opportunities for the children to engage with the Geography around them; to help them make sense of the communities that they live in and to learn about a range of places further away. Geography helps to develop a range of investigation and problem-solving skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas and which can be used to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Through investigation, practical fieldwork and discussion, children become equipped with skills that prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead; to become informed, tolerant, included and active global citizens.

### **Intent**

Our intent for Geography is to ensure that all pupils are competent in geographical skills and develop a sense of awe and wonder, as well as knowledge and understanding of people, places and environments around the world. Our children will understand the processes that give rise to key natural and human geographical features of the world and will start to appreciate how they are interdependent and why they may change over time. As children study Geography they gain an appreciation of life in other countries and cultures. Geography inspires children to think about their own place in the world, their values and their rights. At Ramsbury, we encourage children to respect and care for their environment to sustain its future.

### **Implementation**

At Ramsbury School, Geography is taught through a broad, balanced, coherent and ambitious curriculum that is carefully connected. Children are immersed into the subject using a variety of practical and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Geography is implemented and developed through a spiral curriculum, where children revisit their knowledge and expand their geographical skills. We explore meaningful and recognisable places at a range of scales and use our local area for geographical enquiry and to increase understanding of its richness. Lessons are sequenced over time to build knowledge of features, processes, vocabulary and places and there are overarching themes running through the years and phases that are returned to, such as rivers and sustainability.

In Key Stage 1 children explore their local area and develop their own personal geographies through first-hand observations and fieldwork before extending their locational and place knowledge through the geographies of famous people and explorers. They use subject-specific vocabulary to describe features and use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the world's continents and oceans. They use IT resources to explore countries and lifestyles that differ to their own. Lessons are engaging and inclusive. Children sit on a tractor, follow trails, adopt trees, travel stormy seas, explore on welly walks, and write letters to Shackleton to develop empathy and a sense of place.

In Key Stage 2 children extend their place knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. They investigate

the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and natural features, to include biomes, rivers, natural disasters, economic activity and the distribution of natural resources. The school works closely with Ramsbury Estates, ARK (Action for the River Kennet) and Thames Water to see geography and human ingenuity in action. Orienteering and fieldwork opportunities are provided for on residential trips, local fieldwork and through PE. Children investigate and visit places that are part of their local cultural heritage such as Avebury, Barbury Castle and Littlecote. Children communicate their geographical knowledge on a wide range of global issues and in a variety of ways, ranging from debates about energy supplies through to persuasive letter writing to companies and to our Prime Minister on environmental issues.

Geography is an intrinsic aspect of our school life. Children are encouraged to eat plastic free snacks at break time, our Playpods provide for creative minds and time to chat using recycled materials and we have whole school initiatives, such as fund raising for ATE Ghana and a Francophone Day.

### **Impact**

As children progress through Ramsbury School, they develop a deep knowledge, understanding and appreciation for their local area and the global context of their local lives. Children can critically examine their own values and attitudes, respect the individual liberty of others and recognise their responsibilities and contributions as citizens of their local area, country and wider global community. They are equipped with geographical knowledge and skills to be well prepared for their next steps in education and learning for life and to have the conviction to be actively involved in the world in which they live.



The Curriculum Leader for Geography is Mrs Vicki Fry.