



<b>Headteacher</b>	October 2021
<b>Review</b>	October 2023

# Woore Primary and Nursery School

## Geography Policy

This policy was updated and reviewed in October 2021, in line with the new Primary National Curriculum. Geography teaches an understanding of places and environment. Through their work in geography, children learn about their local area and compare their life in this area with that in other regions in the United Kingdom and the rest of the World. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analyses and problem solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world and enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

### Aims

- To enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of place in the world.
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and in doing so teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps.
- To enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local and regional and global level.
- To encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and appreciation of what global citizenship means.
- To develop a variety of other skills including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

### Teaching and Learning Styles

The teaching styles that we adopt at Woore Primary and Nursery School are as active and practical as possible. The outdoor environment is frequently used as a basis for geographical activities. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all pupils by matching the challenge of the task to their ability and experience. We achieve this by:

- Setting common tasks which are open ended and can have a variety of outcomes.
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty, some children not completing all tasks.
- Grouping children by ability in the room and setting different task to each ability group.
- Providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the child.
- Using teaching assistance to support the work of individual children or groups of children.
- Working collaboratively in pairs or small or large groups.

## **Curriculum Provision**

At foundation Stage and Key One geography aims to:

- To develop awareness of the local environment and develop vocabulary to describe observations and express opinions.
- To raise awareness of other environments through stories, visits, photographs, ICT and artefacts.
- To develop geographical skills through fieldwork, observations and a range of maps.
- To be able to describe and compare places near and far using geographical vocabulary.
- To appreciate both the human and physical characteristics of places.
- To evaluate man-made changes to the environments.

At Key Stage Two

- To extend the depth of geographical enquiry and broaden the range of study to other areas of the developed and developing world.
- To increase their awareness of physical and human factors which determine the nature of places and to describe and explain their similarities and differences.
- To research local, national and global issues using resources and form opinions for debate.
- To develop an awareness of their responsibilities as global citizens.

## **Forest School**

At Woore Primary and Nursery School we have our own forest school site within our grounds. All children (including Nursery pupils) access forest schools each week which is led by our forest school leader Mrs Booth. We take part in Forest School sessions in all weathers except exceptionally cold or windy conditions.

At Forest Schools learning happens in a fun and unconscious way by exploring, being creative and playing. Children will learn about their local natural environment simply by being in it. They are encouraged to develop independence, improve their decision making and raise their self-esteem, to use their initiative to solve problems, co-operate with their friends and peers to achieve small tasks, and to manage risks in an informed and safe way.

### **What do children do at Forest Schools?**

- Forest games
- Build dens and shelters
- Create environmental art
- Work with their group in team tasks
- Explore the natural, living environment
- Cross-curricular learning
- Use tools and equipment safely
- Use the mud kitchen
- Cook on and open fire
- Share stories and learning

### **Learning Objectives for Forest School**

- To provide freedom to explore an outdoor space where there is no right or wrong way of doing things. The exciting small, achievable steps will motivate and give children confidence.
- To learn individually and collectively by sharing ideas and tasks and so develop their communication skills, empathy and understanding of how to work together to get their desired results.
- To develop a feeling of ownership of their forest space; this will foster a sense of responsibility, independence and emotional maturity in their view of themselves in the wider world.
- To understand and appreciate the boundaries that are in place to keep children safe.
- To identify the challenges and risks in the outdoor space, and for children to grow in awareness of how to regulate those risks.

- To be able to reflect upon the events of the forest school sessions and for children to appreciate how this has made them feel and possibly how they can pursue this way of learning.

### **Gardening Club**

Our weekly Gardening club is provided by a team of local volunteers and offered to children from Reception to Year 6 as an after school enrichment activity. The pupils learn many skills linked to gardening and using tools whilst developing their awareness of responsibilities to preserve our local environment. The pupils have already established a growing area for fruit and vegetables along with a composting area to recycle waste.

### **Health and Safety**

Fieldwork and site visits are an important part of geographical work and school health and safety guidelines will be adhered to at all times. Risk assessments will be carried out before any fieldwork takes place. For further guidance refer to the school's Health and Safety policy.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The pupils are encouraged to fully participate in all aspects of the geography regardless of their race, age or ability. For further guidance refer to the school's Equal Opportunities policy.