

"At Hilltop Infant School, everyone will work together in a nurturing environment to provide each child with challenging opportunities that encourage a desire for life-long learning."



Hilltop Infant School Humanities Policy

Agreed by the Children & Curriculum Committee October 2015

Signature John Young
Chair of Governors

Due for Review Summer 2017

Introduction

We believe that all children must be supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them make sense of the world. They should be helped to learn to respect and value all people and learn to avoid misapprehensions and negative attitudes towards others. We believe that opportunities should be provided for children to develop understanding by using a variety of sources and applying their skills in a range of contexts. Aspects of History, Geography and Religious Education will be used to develop and extend the children's awareness and appreciation of the world in which they live.

Aims and Objectives of Geography in our school

To provide children with the opportunity:

- To develop a knowledge of the world they live in. Noticing features of their own environment and how this may vary to other places.
- To name and locate countries, capital cities, continents and oceans on maps, atlases and globes
- To identify seasonal and daily weather patterns
- To use basic geographical vocabulary
- To use simple compass directions, locational and directional language
- To use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks
- To devise a simple maps and keys, use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the local area

Aims and Objectives of History in our school

To provide children with the opportunity:

- To develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time showing an understanding of a chronological framework. To identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- To use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms.
- To understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented
- To learn about changes within living memory and beyond
- To have knowledge of the lives of significant individuals in the past, events and places. Comparing individuals from different periods of time and where possible relating to our own locality.

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education in our school

To provide children with the opportunity:

- To reflect on their own feelings, questions, thoughts and experiences
- To acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practice, including Christianity and other world religions
- To develop an appreciation of religious and cultural diversity of our society and how the diversity enriches our lives
- To develop the ability to understand their own beliefs and respect those beliefs of others

Teaching and Learning

Learning objectives based on the Early Years Foundation Stage, The National Curriculum and the Essex agreed syllabus for Religious Education have been identified in our long term rolling plans. In this way we are ensuring continuity and progression for our children. Each of the Humanities subject's skills are planned to meet the needs of each child:

- within a lesson/session
- over a series of lessons/opportunities
- throughout a whole school experience
- through a combination of cross-curricular units and discrete units of work focusing on each area

Children are given access to photographs, artefacts, information sources and first hand experiences to build on their knowledge and understanding.

Children are given opportunities to work:

- individually
- in small groups
- as a whole class
- as a school
- with other schools from time to time

Teachers will:

- set clear purpose for children's work
- build specific humanities objectives into planning and integrate these in to thematic working.
- share objectives with children to help them sustain their interest and motivation over longer periods of time

- establish criteria for success and encourage children's critical reflection. Staff will help children to develop criteria that they can use to judge their own success and value their work
- plan for children to share their work with others so that they can reflect on and talk through their experiences and feelings
- give opportunities for children to apply prior learning creatively
- fire children's imagination through other learning and experiences. Staff will help children to envisage what might be, explore ideas keeping options open
- capitalise on unexpected learning opportunities
- use a range of learning styles including role-play, practical experimentation, problem solving, small group discussion and collaboration and through using computing programmes and internet resources available to support learning in History, Geography and Religious Education.
- provide a range of sources to enable children to gather and interpret information and to make links between available materials.
- provide opportunities for children to visit locations outside the school environment.

During Humanities lessons there will be various opportunities for writing. All writing should be of high quality, in line with the English policy. On other occasions humanities lessons will be practical only and will not involve any writing.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Ongoing teacher assessment linked to learning objectives for a session which can be used to identify strengths and areas for development
- Self and peer assessment where children are encouraged to evaluate their own achievements
- Children's achievements are shared with parents/carers through parental consultations and in a written end-of-year report
- Whole class assessment grids will identify and track children's progress in each of the Humanities areas.

Equal Opportunities

At Hilltop Infant School, every child will have access to our curriculum regardless of gender, ethnic or religious background, disability or learning ability. We will make every effort to use humanities-based topic work and resources to exploit the full potential for multi-cultural education that celebrates cultural diversity.