

*"The calling of humanities is to make us truly human
in the best sense of the word"*
J. Irwin Miller

Duncombe Primary School Humanities Policy

Overall Aims

To ensure that geography and history are experienced in a progressive way throughout primary school so that each child develops their skills, knowledge and understanding.

To develop investigative skills to carry out effective geographical and historical enquiry.

Geography Aims

To enable children to develop an interest in the wonder of the world.

To enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places 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 society.

To give children an understanding of geographical issues locally, nationally and globally.

History Aims

To help children understand the present in the context of the past, promoting their sense of chronology.

To develop an appreciation of how we gain knowledge of the past.

To develop children's historical enquiry skills through using and evaluating evidence and asking and answering questions.

Teaching and Learning

Years 1 to 6 teach History and geography in line with the school's creative curriculum. The curriculum map gives wide ranging topics for each year group to cover during the year. Lessons should teach children the skills of geography and history (enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation) through these topics as well as the general knowledge and understanding. These subjects are an ideal forum for enriching and supporting other areas of the curriculum such as ICT and literacy.

Humanities should be taught every half term, alternating history and geography topics. Lessons can be taught as a block or as a weekly lesson. Each humanities unit should have a medium term plan written using the Duncombe proforma. At the end of the unit all children should be assessed in line with the skills ladder.

During the year, the school runs 'topic weeks' during which humanities should be represented through lessons in each key stage.

Wherever possible, opportunities for geographical fieldwork and visits to sites of historical interest should be exploited. All classes should experience at least one humanities focused trip or in school workshop during the school year. Classes should use their humanities topics as the basis for class assemblies when possible during the year.

Updated: June 2011