



Mousehole Primary School – Geography



The study of real people in real places, and our relationship with the environment, is at the heart of the geography curriculum. Therefore, there are many occasions when we give children the opportunity to reflect on their own values and beliefs, and those of others. For example, we give opportunities to think about the feelings of a child living in Tulum, Mexico in Year 1 and 2, or comparing and contrasting the economies of different regions of the UK in Years 5 and 6. The children explore their own feelings about the people, places and environments they are learning about in the United Kingdom, Europe and in the wider world.

Geography learning in the classroom, whether individual, in pairs or groups fosters good social behaviour. However, through fieldwork, geography makes a distinctive contribution to social development through independence, communication and problem solving. Geography also has a key role in developing an understanding of citizenship. For example, learning about the fishing industry of Mousehole and Newlyn in Year 5 and 6 develops a sense of the interdependence of people and places. Through geography, children develop a knowledge and understanding of the concept of sustainable development.



Most geographical issues have a moral dimension. Environmental relationships provide a wealth of opportunities for distinguishing a moral dimension; for example, pupils in Years 3 & 4 discuss whether the rainforest being exploited really affects them. Discussion, role-play and decision-making exercises enable children to explore such issues. In doing so, children learn about the varying views held by society, and develop their own attitudes and values in relation to these.

Through the study of real people in real places, geography makes a major contribution to cultural development. Children learn about the characteristics of their local area, and contrast where they live with more distant localities, such as Tulum in Mexico and London UK. A sense of place requires a knowledge and understanding of the cultural traditions of the people who live there. For example, pupils in Year 2 learn about different styles of dress and buildings, while older pupils explore different attitudes towards the environment. Geography is a natural vehicle for exploring multicultural societies.