



Geography Curriculum Policy for Infants to 6th Class

1 INTRODUCTION / AIMS

Aims:

The aims of geography are

- to develop knowledge and understanding of local, regional and wider environments and their interrelationships
- to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the variety of natural and human conditions on the Earth
- to develop empathy with people from diverse environments and an understanding of human interdependence
- to develop the ability to use a range of communicative methods, especially those concerned with the development of graphicacy (mapping and other non-verbal, non-numerical forms of data presentation)
- to encourage the development of a sense of place and spatial awareness
- to encourage the development of caring attitudes and responsible behaviour towards the environment, and involvement in the identification, discussion, resolution and avoidance of environmental problems
- to develop an understanding of appropriate geographical concepts.

2 STRANDS AND STRAND UNITS

The three strands of the Geography curriculum are:

- Human Environments
- Natural Environments
- Environmental Awareness and Care

3 DIFFERENTIATION

The multi-grade nature of our school informs our planning. However, while teachers' planning reflects their mixed class grouping there is equal emphasis upon individual abilities. Teachers will endeavour to adapt and modify activities and methodologies in Visual Art education to encourage participation by all children. Teachers may differentiate by learning objective, by support, resource, outcome, teaching style, task or by pace

4 CURRICULUM CONTENT

4.1 INFANTS – JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
<p>Activities in local environment.</p> <p>Stories</p> <p>Poems and songs</p> <p>Gardening</p>	<p>Daily/Weekly walks in the woods and work/play in the school garden – informal and fun discussions and stories about our family, our community, our homes, our school, people at work and people at play People who help us and visit our school and the people we meet when we go on our walks or other trips out of the school.</p> <p>Projects and stories to celebrate our multicultural school community</p> <p>In stories told, children get a imaginatively energized mental picture of varied geographical communities and environments, e.g. towns, villages, households; mountains, rivers, forests, skies (sun, moon and stars as our companions), caves, islands, etc. Festivals throughout the year – Seasonal/stories from the past</p> <p>We sing and recite and learn by heart a variety of environmentally themed pieces.</p> <p>Carry out real gardening tasks around the school in collaboration with the parents gardening groups</p>	<p>(p.24) Living in the local Community</p> <p>(p.26) The local natural environment</p> <p>(p.27) Caring for my Locality.</p> <p>(p.25) People and places in other areas.</p> <p>(p.25) People and places in other areas.</p> <p>(p.26) Weather.</p> <p>(p.25) People and places in other areas. (p 26) Planet Earth in Space. (p.26) Weather. - (p.27) Caring for my Locality.</p> <p>(p.27) Caring for my Locality.</p>

4.2 FIRST AND SECOND CLASS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
Activities in local environment.	Weekly walks in Barna woods and work/play in the school garden.	(p.38) Living in the local Community (p41) The local natural environment
Building	Explore the human need for shelter. Learn about different shelters in different environments: <i>igloos, etc.</i> Make models to scale from natural materials. Participate in a real outdoor building project with proper tools and materials and with the involvement of outside professionals and craft workers.	(P 38) Homes and Shelter, People at Work, (p 40) People and Places in other areas
Gardening	Carry out real gardening tasks around the school in collaboration with the parents gardening groups	(p41) The local natural environment (p43) Caring for my locality

4.3 THIRD CLASS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
Local studies	Map of classroom Map of school, (birdseye views) Children's journeys to school. Presentations about local geographical features: Barna woods, The Corrib, Connemara, Galway Weather observations and records.	(p54) People living and working in the local area. (p.57) land, rivers and seas of my county. (p.58) Weather climate and atmosphere (p.60) Environmental awareness.
Activities in local environment.	Termly walks in Barna woods and work/play in the school garden. Half-termly outings and tours in the local and surrounding areas.	(p.57) the local natural environment.
Environmental Activities	Children responsible for recycling and compost in the school along with turning off lights and keeping doors closed. Children learning about and involved in local and national environmental issues – debates, news and strikes.	(p.60) Environmental awareness (p.61) Caring for the environment

4.4 FOURTH CLASS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
Geography of Ireland	Biographical stories of a variety of people living in Ireland today. Physical study of Irish rivers, mountains, coastline, islands. Learn the 32 counties of Ireland.	(p.54) People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland. (p.56) county, regional and national centres. (p.57) the local natural environment.
Activities in local environment.	Termly walks in Barna woods and work/play in the school garden. Half-termly outings and tours in the local and surrounding areas.	(p.57) the local natural environment.
Environmental Activities	Children responsible for recycling and compost in the school along with turning off lights and keeping doors closed. Children learning about and involved in local and national environmental issues – debates, news and strikes.	(p.60) Environmental awareness (p.61) Caring for the environment

4.5 FIFTH CLASS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
Geography of Europe	Individual research projects on a European country of the pupil's choice.	(p.75) people and other lands. (p.79) physical features of Europe.
Geology	Presentation of the Earth as a mineral entity. Learning about the three main rock types and their formations. Study of volcanoes.	(p.80) Rocks and soil.
Astronomy	Phenomenological study of the day and night sky from the earth point of view. Presentation of the model of the Celestial Sphere. Observation and mapping of the circumpolar constellations. Presentation of the 12 zodiacal constellations and observations of those which are present in the night sky	(p.82) planet earth in space.

	<p>at the time of the main lesson.</p> <p>Phases of the moon.</p> <p>Observation of planets: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, <i>if present</i>.</p>	
Activities in local environment.	Termly walks in Barna woods and work/play in the school garden. Half-termly outings and tours in the local and surrounding areas.	(p.78) the local natural environment.
Environmental Activities	<p>Children responsible for recycling and compost in the school along with turning off lights and keeping doors closed.</p> <p>Children learning about and involved in local and national environmental issues – debates, news and strikes.</p>	<p>(p.83) Environmental awareness</p> <p>(p.84) Caring for the environment</p>

4.6 SIXTH CLASS

What we do	How we do it	Primary Curriculum Objectives
World Geography	<p>Presentation of main global climates and habitats.</p> <p>Individual research projects on a country of the pupil's choice.</p>	<p>(p. 75) people and other lands.</p> <p>(p. 77) Trade and development issues.</p>
Activities in local environment.	Termly walks in Barna woods and work/play in the school garden. Half-termly outings and tours in the local and surrounding areas.	(p.78) the local natural environment.
Environmental Activities	<p>Children responsible for recycling and compost in the school along with turning off lights and keeping doors closed.</p> <p>Children learning about and involved in local and national environmental issues – debates, news and strikes.</p>	<p>(p.83) Environmental awareness</p> <p>(p.84) Caring for the environment</p>

5 SUCCESS CRITERIA

The success of this plan will be evaluated through teacher's planning and preparation, and if the procedures outlined in this plan have been consistently followed. We will also judge its success if the children have been enabled to achieve the aims outlined in this plan.

6 RATIFICATION

Cuan na Gaillimhe - CNS believes that the school community must be involved to successfully implement the Primary Geography Curriculum. Therefore, the teaching staff will implement this plan with the support of the Board of Management, Parents and the Local Community.

This school plan was worked on and discussed by staff during March 2020 School Closure and presented to the Board of Management of Cuan na Gaillimhe –CNS on 27th April 2020. Once this plan has been ratified by Board of Management, it will be issued to all teaching staff and copies will be made available for inspection by parents/inspectors and other interested parties on request from school office.

Chairperson of the Board of Management



As a growing school this plan will be reviewed as necessary and in line with Primary Geography Curriculum.