### **Geography Policy - Banks St Stephens School**

**Introduction**

At Banks St Stephens, we are committed to delivering a high-quality Geography curriculum that aligns with the National Curriculum objectives. Geography is not only about understanding the physical and human world but also about exploring how the legacies of the past have shaped the land we live in today. Rooted in our Christian values of Belonging, Serving, and Succeeding, we aim to nurture a sense of responsibility, empathy, and curiosity in all learners. By focusing on the theme of Legacy and Land, we encourage students to explore how the environment, human settlements, and cultural heritage have evolved over time and their impact on communities today.

**National Curriculum and Christian Values Integration**

Our Geography curriculum is based on statutory National Curriculum requirements and structured to promote:

1. **Belonging**: Helping students understand their role and connection to their local community and the wider world.
2. **Serving Others**: Instilling the importance of environmental stewardship and compassion through the study of geography and global issues.
3. **Succeeding**: Equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed academically and as responsible global citizens.

**Curriculum Structure**

**Aims and Objectives**

Our Geography curriculum aims to:

* Explore the legacy of human and environmental interactions, encouraging students to reflect on how history has shaped the land and communities we see today.
* Build a strong understanding of land, its physical features, climates, and the relationships between people and their environment.
* Promote Christian values by fostering stewardship, justice, and empathy, alongside academic excellence.

**Curriculum Intent**

Our curriculum emphasises how land is shaped by both natural processes and human activities, and the legacies left behind:

1. Physical Geography: Understanding landforms, climates, and ecosystems.
2. Human Geography: Exploring settlements, trade, and cultural heritage.
3. Legacy of Change: Investigating how past actions (e.g., industrial development, environmental conservation) have shaped the present.

**National Curriculum Objectives**

1. Locational Knowledge:
* Name and locate countries, cities, regions, and geographical features of the UK and beyond.
* Understand key physical and human features (e.g., rivers, mountains, cities).
1. Place Knowledge:
* Compare local areas (e.g., Banks village) with contrasting regions.
1. Human and Physical Geography:
* Describe physical features (e.g., climate zones, rivers) and human impacts (e.g., urban development).
1. Geographical Skills and Fieldwork:
* Use maps, globes, and digital resources.
* Conduct fieldwork to observe, measure, and record features of the environment.

**Geographical Skills**

* **Locational Skills**: Using atlases and maps to identify geographical features and their relationship to history (legacy of settlements).
* **Comparison Skills**: Identifying similarities and differences between regions.
* **Enquiry Skills**: Asking and answering geographical questions about the environment and human activity.
* **Critical Thinking**: Understanding the impact of past events on current landscapes and communities.

**Outcomes**

* Develop a sense of place and connection to local and global environments.
* Understand the legacy of human actions and decisions on the land.
* Apply fieldwork skills to investigate and present findings on local geographical and historical features.
* Foster respect for different cultures and environments through exploration of diversity and interdependence.

**Examples of Legacy and Land Themes in Geography**

1. Local Legacy: Explore how the land around Banks village reflects historical use (e.g., farming, drainage of marshland).
2. National Legacy: Investigate the legacy of industrial revolutions on urban growth in Lancashire.
3. Global Legacy: Understand the lasting impact of ancient civilizations, such as Baghdad’s contributions to science and culture, on modern society.

**Christian Values in Geography**

* **Belonging**: Understanding the role of settlements and geography in creating a sense of home and community.
* **Serving Others**: Developing responsibility for protecting the environment and serving others through sustainable choices.
* **Succeeding**: Empowering students with the skills to understand the world and contribute positively to its future.

**Conclusion**

At Banks St Stephens, our Geography curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity and a sense of responsibility in students. By exploring Legacy and Land, we encourage learners to understand the relationships between people, places, and the environment, rooted in Christian values. We aim to cultivate critical thinkers who appreciate the past, understand the present, and are equipped to shape the future.