

St Mary & St Michael's Catholic Primary School



Geography Policy

'We are all unique and can reach our full potential in the loving family of St Mary & St Michael's Catholic Primary School. Walking with Jesus, caring for each other, we learn together in the warmth of our school home.'

Agreed by staff: September 2021
Shared with parents: Autumn 2021

Governors: Autumn 2021
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‘A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth’s key physical and human processes.’ Curriculum 2014

Subject Aims

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - 1) collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - 2) interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - 3) communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length

Purpose

It is our aim to deliver a high-quality geography education where the children at St Mary & St Michael’s gain knowledge about the world around them. Teaching will be inspirational and invoke the children's curiosity about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. At St Mary & St Michael’s, we believe it is important to encourage children to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. Geography is, by nature, an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills.

Organisation

Our Geography curriculum comprises of a number of strands

Human and Physical Geography
A Geographical Location Study
Location and Place Knowledge
Geographical Fieldwork

As children progress through school, they will revisit each of the geographic stands, allowing them to build progressively on prior knowledge and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Your child's geographical education will start in EYFS within the Early Years Goal 'Understanding the World'. The children are given opportunities to take part in first hand experiences, including exploring the local environment, gathering information and communicating their views. They look at similarities and difference in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. It is the foundation for their primary education and this is built upon through Key Stage 1 & 2.

Within Key Stage 1 & 2 your child will develop knowledge about their locality, the United Kingdom and the World. They will understand subject specific vocabulary which will be built upon over the Key Stages. This vocabulary will relate to human and physical geography so they can use their knowledge and skills, including first-hand experiences, to enhance their locational awareness and then develop further to an understanding of the world around us once in Key Stage 2. Over both key stages your child will be taught;

- Location and Place Knowledge
- Human and Physical Geography
- Geographical Location Study
- Geographical Fieldwork

Throughout their geographical journey at St Mary & St Michael's, children will engage in a range of valuable experiences, visits and field work to enhance their learning as well as reading a variety of maps, non-fiction texts across the curriculum and linked fiction texts. We feel that field work is an important and valuable area of geography which is why we give our children opportunities each term, eg- orienteering within school groups, local visits, residential experiences, educational visits.

Global Learning through Geography

As well as the opportunity to explore knowledge and understanding about the world, geography also engages our pupils in different ideas and perspectives on it. Especially being a Catholic school, we teach our children about 'God's Beautiful World' and how we should protect and look after it. Through this we stimulate critical thinking about global issues around the world- poverty, environment issues, sustainability & making the world a fairer place for all.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment and geographical development is on-going. Children complete a task at the beginning of the term based on the main strands within Geography- locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography (vocabulary) & geography skills and field work. Then at the end of the term the children will complete the same task and teachers will assess the progress the children have made. Each teacher records on the whole school tracking system, if the pupil is working towards or at the age-related expectation, or if they are working at greater depth. This is completed each term and reported to parents twice a year.

Each term the Geography lead analyses and responds to the data for each pupil. Those children who are not at expected standard are monitored and if necessary will receive catch-up activities.

The data and yearly actions are reported back to governors through their monitoring or an annual report.

SEN

Children with Special Educational Needs have access to the full geography curriculum and if needed will be given extra support or resources to ensure their needs are met and to enable them to reach age related

outcomes at the end of the year. Some children may find field trips difficult if they have a physical disability or medical need- additional support will be given to these children to enable them to take an active roll and tasks may be adapted where necessary.

Equal Opportunities

All staff at St Mary & St Michael's are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances have access to the whole curriculum and the opportunity to make progress possible in all areas of the curriculum whilst in our school.

Resources

Key resources for Geography are kept centrally stored in the wall units in the Year 4 classroom. These are for teachers to access freely and place in their classrooms for the duration of a topic. Teachers are additionally encouraged to display maps, globes and displays of children's geographical work within classrooms and corridors, throughout the year.

Curriculum Leadership

Supporting teaching through:

Leading INSET, giving support

Scrutinizing plans & work to ensure standards are at national level, continuity, differentiation and progress.

Sharing information acquired across courses or other sources that may be beneficial to staff.

Listening to the 'pupil voice' and acting on outcomes with support from our 'Geography ambassadors'.

Undertaking 'learning walks' to ensure an appropriate level of exposure of subject area around school.

The management, maintenance and storage of resources and purchase of new resources when necessary.

Collecting, collating and responding to end of year achievements.

Reporting to governors through visits and annual report writing.