

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith



Geography Intent Document

Intent

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are GEOGRAPHERS!

We want our children to be enthusiastic about Geography and to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. We want them to have no limits as to what their ambitions are and grow up wanting to be transport planners, environmental consultants or landscape architects. We recognise the key role that Geography plays in equipping our children with skills that they can use for life, allowing them to become curious to explore the world around them and develop a passion for looking after our precious world.

Our curriculum document enables children to develop their knowledge and understanding of location and place, by exploring the human and physical features of their local area, Scarisbrick, and comparing it with other regions around the world. From the Amazon Basin to the South Pole, we aim to provide our children with greater sense of the wider world. We aim to encourage a fascination for locations and places, its people and patterns. Our Geography curriculum aims to enthuse and engage children to become passionate about the world around them. Within Geography, we want our children to gain confidence and enjoy practical experiences through local fieldwork studies, trips and events. We aim to include a range of geographical essential characteristics, which includes not only an excellent understanding of locations and places, but also a secure understanding of human and physical geography.

The children will develop their geographical skills, by using maps to expand their knowledge and understanding of compass directions, grid references, symbols and keys. The children will have access to maps in different forms such as simple maps, globes, atlases, ordnance survey maps and aerial photos.

The children will partake in field work, to develop their understanding of the local environment and current issues. They will use their fieldwork to communicate those issues and how they can be improved with the community and local bodies.

Implementation

Each programme of study is built around the concepts of:

Investigate places

To understand the geographical location of places and also the physical and human geographical features of these places.

– to include place knowledge and locational knowledge

Investigate patterns

To understand the relationship between physical geographical features and human activities. To focus on the changes over time.

- Human and physical geography

Communicate Geographically

To understand and communicate through geographical vocabulary, representations and data. To ask questions, enquire and discuss and debate.

-Human and Physical Geography and Geographical skills and fieldwork

The Geography curriculum enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum subjects and the curriculum progression expands outwards from our immediate locality to the global. The curriculum will engage our children and facilitate and inspire them to become inquisitive, resilient, independent, challenging thinkers and active global citizens; who are aware of and understand the wider world – and their place in it.

Our Geography curriculum is designed, so each child's Geographical journey, begins with 'themselves' and their school, moving on to the local area, before extending to the United Kingdom, Europe and the rest of the world. The children will then develop their age-related mapping skills and field work.

We teach our children in mixed aged classes; therefore, substantive knowledge will be taught over two cycles (A & B). The disciplinary knowledge is age-related, so that all children can develop their Geography skills in a linear progression.

Appropriate vocabulary has been selected, which will be taught during the Geography lessons, to ensure a greater understanding of the subject area.

Asking questions, enquiry, discussions and debates are an important element of our geography teaching and learning. We encourage children to express opinions which are based on their knowledge and understanding of geography.

We have a number of Geography monitors within the Upper KS2 who support this subject through subject assemblies, displays and vocabulary activities, which support the acquisition of a bank of geographical vocabulary. To support the curriculum, St. Mary's is also a member of the Geographical Association.

Impact

Our Geography curriculum offers high quality and well-planned lessons, which encourage progression. Key vocabulary is embedded in each lesson. Continuity and progression in the curriculum is built around substantive and disciplinary knowledge within Geography. These are broken into year group expectations.

In order to ensure our aims have been met, we scrutinise learning through:

- Assessing children's understanding of the topic including linked vocabulary before and after the unit is taught. – Prior and Post learning activity.
- Talking to children during the lesson to ensure they have understood the learning objective – Assessment for learning.
- Mark completed work – Assessment for learning.

For any additional information regarding the Geography curriculum please contact Mrs. Sykes (Subject Lead) or Mr Rippon (Subject Governor).