

Geography Curriculum- Creating skilled geographers at St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Intent:

Issaiah- 'It Is he that sitteth upon the circle of the Earth, and the Inhabitants thereof are grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell In.'

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, our pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive, to pose questions and seek answers. Our Geography curriculum inspires children to look closely at the world, our 'common home' around them and develop the skills necessary to be able to interpret what they see and find.

We want geography to be creative, fun and above all be relevant and meaningful to the pupils' own lives and experiences. As such, we seek to build upon their personal geography, by developing locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical knowledge and geographical skills and fieldwork, starting with them and their immediate locality before branching out and examining the national and international world. We seek to broaden children's real-life experiences both inside and outside of school through educational visits, visitors, exploration, and discovery. We encourage the use of cross curricular links, encompassing the use of subjects such as technology, art and maths as well as allowing opportunities to develop our literacy skills.

As part of our School's Catholic Mission, we underpin our Curriculum with Catholic Social teaching and the Gospel Values and Virtues- ensuring that we are teaching the children about 'Our common home' that God created for us- and teaching them how we can be active citizens, looking after both the planet and those who live here.

We are fortunate to live in a community and area rich in culture and diversity, and we embrace the opportunities that this affords to us. We want to encourage our pupils to be global citizens, educated and aware of the world we live in and the positive impact we can have.

We commit to:

- Develop the children's knowledge of the world
- Stimulate children's interest in their immediate surrounding and beyond
- Develop an understanding of local, national and world geography
- Develop a sound understanding and appreciation of physical and human geographical features of the world we live in
- Develop an awareness of the environment and natural world we live in and the responsibilities we have to protect it

Implementation:

-The Geography curriculum is delivered as an explicit subject, from pre-school up to year 6

-‘Brilliant beginnings’ are planned and delivered at the start of each term.

-A topic-based curriculum ensures depth of knowledge and understanding both in Geography and the wider curriculum

-Our geography curriculum has been developed in a way that links to our history curriculum wherever possible. There are elements of geography woven into our history units, where appropriate. We also recognise the importance of teaching geography in its own right.

-Substantive and disciplinary knowledge/understanding is developed- and pupil led geographical enquiry is developed, based on the foundations of sequential and progressive subject knowledge.

Pupils are taught to develop the skills of a geographer by fully immersing them in all areas of the subject.

-We teach the key skills in Geography:

- collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
- interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

-Assessment is used to plan, adapt, and deliver a tailored Geography curriculum, relevant and appropriate for our individual pupils

- The Geography Curriculum is enriched in a variety of ways including:

- ✓ Visits to our Local area- e.g. Salt wells wood
- ✓ Opportunity to visit our local canal system
- ✓ Opportunity for external visitors to further enhance the curriculum.

Impact:

Our geography curriculum offers our pupils at St Mary’s a high quality geography teaching and learning experiences that are progressive in nature-meaning pupils make good progress throughout the school. Geographical questioning helps pupils to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of the world and its people. Our pupils develop the essential knowledge and disciplinary skills of geography, and use this to build upon their geographical understanding year on year throughout their journey at school. Our pupils demonstrate a deepened respect for the planet that God created for us, and use their knowledge and skills to learn all about the wonders held within it- the Human, physical and environmental world.