



Subject Story: Geography

Geography

Intent - What are we trying to achieve?

We understand that learning geography is extremely important as it inspires pupils' curiosity to know more about aspects of the world and helps pupils to understand the people, places and environments and the interactions between them. Teaching equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and the natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Our children will develop a connection and an understanding of God's world, their place within it and the impact that they can have on it both positively and negatively. They will also improve upon their field working skills, ensuring they are engaging with their local environment and learning through data collection and mapping of their locality.



- I know where places are in the world
- I know how to keep our planet sustainable
- I can use an atlas, a map and a compass

Implementation – How is the curriculum being delivered?

We have analysed the national curriculum programme of study for geography and broken down the content into the following stands: locational knowledge; place knowledge; human and physical geography and geographical skills and fieldwork. The curriculum content is broken into specific objectives for each year group and mapped to show progression through the year groups. Bespoke cross-curricular topics have been designed to ensure children can utilise geography skills and learn about both local geography and the wider world.

Teachers use a variety of resources to plan, teach and assess lessons. Primarily, teachers use KAPOW to support them in planning and delivering their chosen topics. Technology is also used alongside traditional resources such as atlases, compasses etc. Our local school environment and community is used to enrich the curriculum through practical fieldwork. History, art & design, design & technology and drama will be closely linked with geography as children use these subjects freely to communicate what they have learnt. We have a bespoke world map on display that is used as a teaching resource for locational knowledge.

On every appropriate occasion, teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, and the local and wider environment to engage children's interest and imagination. While we ensure that objectives are taught well and with clear progression, we also ensure that we do not create tenuous links through our topics, ensuring that any geography learning is purposeful and effective.

A Curriculum Map is shared on the school's website so that parents can support their child's learning at home.

Teachers will create a planning overview for each topic taught, showing clearly any objectives taught in line with the progression chart and the national curriculum programme of study.

Pupils will be given feedback, either verbal or written, for each piece of work so that they can make rapid and sustained progress over their school life.

Impact - What difference is the curriculum making?

Our pupils are extremely conscious of their impact on the world. They know about their local area and significant places around the world, including continents, oceans and cities. They recognise the difference between physical and human features and they can take responsibility for improving their world and their future. Our pupils will have the geographical skills to use maps, atlases, globes and technology to locate places both locally and across the world so that they better understand their world and are prepared for the next stage in their education. They will also engage with fieldwork and gain an understanding of their community and the effect they can have on it, both positive and negative.



Saint Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Excellence • Enrichment • Enjoyment

Geography will promote the pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by helping them understand the ethical problems that face our local and global communities and the decisions that are made to solve them. This will help them see that decisions that are made by leaders and individuals should be based on moral principles.

Geography will promote British Values by ensuring children learn about our multi-cultural country and see themselves as global citizens, who respect and value differences.

Geography will help pupils develop a Growth Mindset by encouraging the children to see that acquired knowledge about our world can be gained through perseverance and then used to improve their lives and the lives of others.

If you visited a Geography lesson at St Michael's you would see:

- Enthusiasm and passion about geography
- Children using specialist geographical vocabulary and terminology confidently
- A sense of wonder about places.
- Children using their prior learning in moving their geographical understanding forward
- Excellent use the outside environment and fieldwork to secure high-quality learning
- Very good use of a range of topical multi-media resources to engage pupils and bring places to life
- Very effective use of geographical enquiry to encourage questioning, investigation and critical thinking
- A wide range of maps being used to explore our world

Pupil Voice

Reception: 'I love learning about the world around us'

Year 2: 'We love geography because we learn about different countries like Kenya'

Year 6: 'You get to learn about different countries and it gives us a better idea of how life is around the world'

An example of progression in our curriculum

Locational knowledge						
EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps	Use world maps to identify the United Kingdom and its countries.	Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries.	Locate and name the cities in the UK.	Name and locate the counties and cities of the UK, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics and how they have changed over time.	Identify the position and significance of latitude/longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, The Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle and the Greenwich Meridian and time zones.	Locate the world's countries, focusing on Europe including Russia and North America concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

Our Diverse Curriculum

As a school, we are passionate that our children receive a broad, balanced, inclusive and diverse curriculum.

Within this subject, we will ensure:

- Where appropriate, geography lessons will focus on a diverse range of genders, ethnicities, social classes, religions and localities, in order to gain an insight into the world we live in.
- By teaching topics about different countries across the world, our children are able to see further than the area they live in and learn about different countries, continents and conditions.



Our Ambitious Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to give all our children the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Pupils with Special Needs: In geography, children are supported to achieve through carefully chosen, differentiated tasks that may be adapted to meet their individual needs. Adult support is available in lessons, which designed to include children with special needs so that they can achieve alongside their peers. Other strategies to support pupils access the curriculum include:

Location and place knowledge

- Key vocabulary on displays and on learning journeys
- Knowledge organisers on displays
- Providing map templates
- Larger and differentiated maps given

Human and physical geography

- Videos to support learning
- Word banks given at start of new topic
- Differentiated texts and adapted templates

Geography skills and fieldwork

- Simplified maps and grid reference tasks
- Mixed ability pairs
- Provide page numbers and websites to support locating countries (additional structures)
- Many learning objectives being practical
- Evidence of learning objectives can be recorded using pictures and videos rather than just written evidence.

Disadvantaged Pupils: All children at St Michael's have access to the excellent resources and facilities we provide. For example, we have a huge world map designed specifically to teach the core content of our geography curriculum. They all benefit from excellent teaching and learning. All educational visits and workshops at school are fully funded for disadvantaged pupils so every child has access to the same high-quality learning experiences.

More Able Pupils: We identify pupils that show exceptional attributes in our curriculum. In geography, the children are provided with more challenging work to advance their geographical skills. We encourage these children to make connections to previous learning and use different sources and skills to promote their own geographical learning.



Outstanding Examples of Learning



Year 1 pupils visiting Ashford High Street looking for human and physical features.



Reception pupils learning about how to keep our beaches and oceans clean and litter free.



Year 4 pupils using our bespoke world map to help them learn the continents of the world.