



Geography at St Mary's

Intent:

At St Mary's, we strive to equip children with the skills needed to be geographers. We aim to promote a love of the world; the different places & people in it. We give children opportunities to use their learning to consider how to be responsible citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Essential characteristics of geographers:

A love of finding out about the world and the different places & people in it.

An understanding of how physical and human environments are interrelated.

An ability to use fieldwork skills to find out about an area.

A drive to use their knowledge/learning to make a positive impact on the world and its future.

An ability to select appropriate resources and use these to study the world around them.

At the end of Foundation at St Mary's CE

Children use observation to describe their immediate environment.

Children know some similarities and differences between their environment and other areas of the world.

At the end of Key Stage 1 at St Mary's CE

Children know the seven continents and the four countries and capital cities of the UK.

Children use maps, atlases, globes and simple compass directions.

Children begin to develop fieldwork skills and devise simple maps.

At the end of Key Stage 2 at St Mary's CE

As well as being able to name and locate specific places, children use a variety of resources to describe their physical and human geography.

Children consider how the world has changed over time and how it will continue to change.

Children use fieldwork skills to investigate physical & human geography and gather information.

Implementation:

- We are a one and a half form entry school. To ensure complete coverage of the National Curriculum we:
 - Follow a two-year rolling programme in Key Stage 1.
 - Follow a four-year rolling programme in Key Stage 2.
- All units have an overarching enquiry question. This helps to give learning a clear purpose and promote a love of the subject. It also helps children to develop their geography skills by giving them an opportunity to use facts they have learnt to answer the question.
- Skills progression documents are used when planning to ensure that children develop the geography skills appropriate to their age. These skills are used to write success criteria which is shared with the children in lessons.

- Our curriculum is driven by the Golden Threads (settlement, beliefs, culture & pastimes, conflict, society and travel & exploration) and the Key Values (faith, hope, forgiveness, justice, aspiration). In each lesson, children discuss how the Golden Threads and Key Values relate to their learning and this enables children to make links across different topics (see also 'Mind Map Moments').
- All units have 'wow sessions'. This promotes a love of the subject and gives opportunities for children to develop their history skills and consolidate their learning.
- Mind map moments are used to enable children to organise their knowledge into categories, based on the six Golden Threads.
- Assessments are carried out at the end of each unit through a reflection task about the skills that have been used.
- Each lesson contains a recap session in which Rosenshine's 10 Principles of Instructions are used.
- Staff ensure that children use high quality and accessible resources in geography lessons.

Cultural Capital

Cultural capital is promoted through school trips to places of geographical interest and exploring different places of beauty through reflection tasks – worship, RE

Career Professional Development

Useful resources are shared with staff during CPD sessions.
Staff come together to evaluate and improve the teaching of geography.

Impact:

- Children develop skills needed to be geographers, as well as learning facts. They are aware of the skills that they are using and reflect on how these skills enable them to find out about the world.
- Children make links in areas of learning by referring to the Golden Threads.
- Children use facts they have learnt to answer an overarching question.
- Children have a love of geography and a fascination with finding out more about our world