

Christ Church CofE Primary School

Geography Policy



Introduction

Pupils at Christ Church School develop Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills during engaging lessons and through many opportunities to learn at first-hand how diverse places, people and physical processes are inextricably linked on our amazing planet.

Geography encourages the children to think about their own place in the world and their responsibilities towards other people and the environment on a global, national, local and individual scale.

Intent

Pupils at Christ Church will increase their 'cultural capital' through the teaching and learning of Geography by developing:

- Knowledge and understanding of the world about them –where places are in relation to others, and some of the processes which shape the natural environment.
- An understanding of how the natural environment influences patterns of human activity.
- An understanding of and participation in current environmental issues.
- An appreciation of and respect for people from other cultures and the natural environment.
- Specific Geographical skills, knowledge and understanding (as well as those shared with other curriculum areas) needed to collect, analyse and present information gathered through first hand experiences of the environment and to carry out geographical enquiries.
- An understanding of how the Earth's features are shaped, change over time and how this change impacts human activity.
- An ability to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and recording.
- Thinking and evaluating skills across a range of subjects, in order to promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues.
- All children in Years 4-6 are provided with the opportunity to visit the Lake District for a five day residential stay. Whilst there, they will experience physical challenges such as, ghyll scrambling, abseiling and orienteering. They will also experience a wealth of instruction in the vast variety of physical geography the area provides.

Implementation

- The teaching and learning of Geography at Christ Church will be underpinned by the study of real people, with many opportunities to learn from first-hand experiences.
- We will begin to develop pupils' sense of 'place' and 'community' as described in the EYFS Curriculum area of ' Understanding the World' by providing opportunities for the children to develop their awareness of home, family, the school environment and different communities and celebrations around the world. We will capitalize on their natural curiosity by planning a wide variety of learning experiences, including small world resources, role play, visitors, visits and celebration days. Many of these activities will take place outside in the local community.

- We will use the Essential Curriculum by Chris Quigley as the basis for our scheme of work and we will make meaningful links with the other subjects in the curriculum. Chris Quigley 'Essentials' resources will be used as a framework to deliver the teaching and learning of Geography in Key Stages One and Two, as stated in the National Curriculum. The programme of study will be adapted to suit our local context, capitalise on local resources and make learning relevant for our children. The scheme of work is designed so that pupils are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. We will provide differentiated learning and scaffolded tasks that enable all pupils to learn, including those with special educational needs (SEND).
- The children will participate in engaging activities such as orienteering games, first hand observation of weather and seasonal change in the school grounds, as well as visits to local places of interest.
- The children will have plentiful opportunities to develop core skills in English, Science and Maths and to make meaningful links with other subject areas including History, Computing, Music, Art & Design and Design Technology. Topics from geography and History, shape the learning across other subjects to ensure a cross-curricular approach is fully embedded.
- The children will understand how North Shields has developed and changed over time by studying its' fish quay, changes in housing and links to the impact World War 2 had on the human and physical aspects of the area.
- Our children visit will deepen their knowledge of features, landmarks and regions in the UK and the wider world using OS maps, atlases, globes and online resources such as Digimap. Visits to the coast provide opportunities to identify river and coastal features and locate them on OS maps, as well as to observe erosion, transportation and deposition at first-hand.
- Key principles of Metacognition will be used to inform the planning and delivery of the Geography curriculum. This will include frequent revisiting of topics, skills and themes from different viewpoints, interleaving learning over time and across different curriculum subjects. Knowledge organisers are shared before each new topic and are evident in all books at the start of a topic.
- Our pupils will be supported to become resilient learners.
- The Christian values which underpin every aspect of our school life have become curriculum drivers of the Geographical learning experiences of children across all year groups.

Our aim is for the children to embed and extend their understanding by regularly revisiting Geographical concepts and topics over a period of time, ensuring progression towards National Curriculum expectations for the end of each Key Stage.

- Assessment will be based on key skills and essential knowledge and understanding within the Geography NC programme of study. To ensure progression is clear, books are kept throughout each key stage –with each year, building upon prior knowledge and skills.

Impact

Geography will be fun and it will inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. It will increase their knowledge and understanding of the world and it will be used to promote excellence and enjoyment. We aim to provide experiences to ensure our children are aware of the world outside our local area and to raise aspirations to have experiences outside North Shields. It will be linked with other subjects and it will have a strong presence in the ethos of the school through art, displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies. We will make the world our classroom to enrich the lives of our pupils. The children will have opportunities to take part in national and worldwide initiatives, so that their Geographical learning is grounded in the real world and they are enabled to develop their awareness of, contribute to and actively participate in environmental issues, including climate change and biodiversity.