

Geography Policy

St Edwards R.C. Primary School

Reviewed September 2020



St Edward's Geography Policy

Mission Statement

"A caring, sharing, loving and giving community."

At St Edwards we endeavour to develop and care for the whole child through our teaching and sharing of the Catholic faith.

We aim to develop an awareness of God's love for each person in the school community, through our work and prayer.

We aim to show our love of God in the way we care and value each other and ourselves.

In the delivery of the curriculum we aspire to equip children with those skills necessary to become contributing members of society and responsible adults.

We recognize and encourage our pupils' individual gifts and talents.

St Edward's staff will aim to provide a good quality of education striving to achieve the very highest standards for all its pupils and, at the same time, to develop lively critical minds.

We will aim to develop each pupil's appreciation of education as a lifelong and enjoyable process.

St Edwards School wishes to work in partnership with the parish and families, local schools and community groups recognizing that only by working together can the school make its contribution towards the development of committed Christians and active members of the Church.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Geography St Edward's R.C. Primary school. It is written and based upon our school mission statement which runs throughout all aspects of life in St Edward's. We are all children of God and all members of our community whether near or far must be treated with respect, care and love. This is taught in all areas of the geography curriculum. It was reviewed and re-drafted in September 2014 following the introduction of the new curriculum. This policy will be reviewed yearly next due in November 2020. A schedule for the review of this and all other policy documents is set out in the schools five year plan.

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the environment, local to global and the physical and human forces which shape it.

Our Aims

Our aims for teaching Geography at St Edward's are that pupils will:

- Be able to make sense of their surroundings and their wider world by encouraging the study of places.
- Appreciate how human beings have used that environment with positive and negative effects. Links are also made to the environment through Ecoschools and sustainable schools initiatives.
- Develop the geographical skills of;
 1. Communicating their knowledge using appropriate geographical vocabulary.
 2. Observing features in the local environment.
 3. Measuring and recording features accurately.
 4. Developing an understanding of direction and the appropriate vocabulary associated with this.
 5. Interpreting and using maps, atlases and other secondary sources appropriately.
 6. Observing and comparing places and geographical features.

Principles for the Teaching and Learning of Geography is important because:

- It is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum.
- It deepens our awareness and understanding of the world around us.
- The skills and knowledge gained in Geography can be applied in our general lives.

By being environmentally aware we become more conscious of the effects of our actions on our planet. We can help to develop children who are globally aware, who understand sustainability and the impact they may have on our world's eco system. In short it allows children to be aware of their context in the world around them. In Saint Edward's we have considered the aims, implementation and impact of Geography on children and their part to play as citizens and custodians of our earth.

Strategies for the teaching Geography

The Geography curriculum at St Edward's is primarily linked to topics in both KS1 and KS2 wherever possible using our Creative Curriculum approach to teaching.

Pupils with Special Needs

Teachers ensure that pupils have access to the range of Geography activities. Pupils are encouraged and supported to develop their Geography capability using a range of materials. Teachers differentiate activities within Geography to ensure that the specific needs of individual children are best met.

Pupils in St Edward's with special needs receive extra support in the classroom as time allows, usually from the class teacher.

The more able pupils are extended through the use of supplementary materials and sometimes computer software.

Assessment and Recording

At St Edward's it is considered that the gathering of evidence of pupil attainment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. The teacher in the course of their teaching carries out most of our assessment on an informal basis. Samples of work will be taken from the pupil, as appropriate.

The formative assessment system:

- sets out **steps** so that pupils reach or exceed the end of key stage expectations
- judges whether pupils are on **track** to meet end of key stage expectations
- pinpoints aspects of the curriculum where pupils are **falling behind** and **recognises exceptional performance**.
- supports **planning** and **teaching** for all pupils
- **reports to parents** and, where pupils move to other schools, provide clear information about each pupil's strengths, weaknesses and progress

Evidence of each pupil's attainment will also come from observing them at work, by questioning and by listening to the pupils and assessing their ongoing work. For further information regarding assessment, please refer to assessment and planning policy. Theme weeks are organised throughout the year and Big Books are created to show a range of evidence across all Key stages.

Strategies for recording and reporting

The Geography curriculum at St Edward's is primarily linked to topics in both KS1 and KS2 wherever possible using our Creative Curriculum approach to teaching. Strong links are made between geography and literacy in particular making use of non-fiction reading and writing and speaking and listening opportunities. It is also closely linked to Numeracy.

At KS2 some topics are predominately geographical in nature but, when geography work cannot be linked to topic work; it is studied as a subject in its own right. The predominant mode of working in geography is co-operative group work, although individual and class teaching are used where appropriate within this structure.

Groups are usually mixed ability and work is differentiated by the teacher. Fieldwork is undertaken by all pupils in the school as appropriate because it is a core component of the geography curriculum.

Teacher and commercially produced worksheets are used within the school where appropriate.

Relevant discussion is encouraged. Indeed, at St Edward's, interaction is an important aspect of the Geography curriculum.

Groups are encouraged to communicate their findings in a variety of ways.

There is no specialist teaching of Geography, it is taught by the class teacher.

Reporting to parents

At St Edward's the parents are informed on a formal basis twice a year through interviews and informally as necessary for the individual child.

Parents are also informed about pupil's progress annually through a written report

Home links.

Pupils are encouraged to bring artefacts and secondary sources from the home environment into school for display and discussion.

The emphasis in our teaching of Geography is on integrated learning, linking geography with many other areas of the school curriculum especially Science, History and Mathematics. The Creative Curriculum ensures that a whole school approach is used to incorporate Geography intrinsically within the curriculum. Geography is a biannual half-term focus, which incorporates many other aspects of the curriculum within this subject. However at KS2 although much of our focus is on topic work, we also believe in studying some aspects of the geography as a subject in its own right. At St Edward's

- We believe in developing a range of study skills, which allow children increasingly to take control of their own learning.
- Much study is through direct experience and practical activity.
- Pupils are encouraged to ask geographical questions, to observe their surroundings and other features closely and to communicate their findings to others using a variety of methods including written or verbal reports and the use of graphs or pictures.
- Resources in school are made available to the pupils whenever appropriate.

Strategies for Ensuring Progress and Continuity

It is the policy of the staff at St Edward's to ensure that all areas of the curriculum provide progression and continuity for all pupils.

All the teachers in school are involved in the planning of the Geography curriculum.

In St Edward's the process of Geography will involve pupils in the following:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical knowledge
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

Resource Management

Our school has a wide range of resources to support the teaching of Geography across the school.

At St Edward's most of our resources are dispersed throughout the school where most appropriate. Each classroom has;

- Specifically adapted planning to support geography teaching, providing key questions and starting points to guide our creative curriculum.
- Various measuring instruments such as tapes, metre rules etc.
- A globe and wall maps appropriate to the year group.
- A class set of UK and World atlases for each year group.

Central resources in the school include;

- Measuring instruments used throughout the school periodically e.g. anemometers, thermometers, compasses, wind vanes etc.
- A variety of atlases, maps, aerial photographs and charts relevant to topics being studied.

- A variety of posters and charts.
- Access to digital mapping and atlases

The school library also houses a limited range of books on geographical subjects and these are available for use as reference books.

Computing

We use computing to support Geography teaching when appropriate.

Children use software to enhance their skill; researching, locating information and developing mapping skills. They use databases to provide a range of information sources and CDROMs to gain access to images of people and environments. The children also use ICT to collect information and to present their information in a variety of ways using a multimedia approach.

Close links are maintained with aspects of the English, Maths and Science curriculum.

- Communicating information (word processing, graphics, internet and email). Handling information. (data and graphing skills)
- The development and practice of basic skills through the use of subject specific software. Displaying interactive atlases, maps and images through smart board software.

Safety Guidelines

The pupils at St Edward's are constantly reminded of safety issues especially when undertaking fieldwork activities including the annual residential outing. School has a designated Educational visits coordinator and risk assessments are made before every school outing.

The pupils are also advised on how to use equipment in accordance with health and safety requirements.

The Role of the Geography Co-ordinator

At St. Edward's the role of the Geography Co-ordinator is:

- To update the whole school overview to ensure coverage is maintained.
- To take the lead in policy development and the production of Schemes of Work.
- To support teachers in their implementation of the Schemes.
- To be responsible for the purchasing and organisation of appropriate resources.
- To ensure progress and continuity in Geography throughout the school.
- To assist in the development and implementation of whole school assessment and record keeping with particular reference to Geography.
- To be informed of new developments in the teaching and learning of Geography and to inform teaching staff.
- To advise staff on the use of resources.