



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Geography Policy

Date	Review Date	Responsible Person
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1. Curriculum Statement - Geography

Intent

At our school we believe that Geography helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. Children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. The geography curriculum at Our school enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas and which can and are used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Geography is, by nature, an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills.

The bespoke curriculum is designed by our lead teachers to ensure that teaching equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. Pupils are encouraged to make links and recognise differences between the key areas they study and their local environment. As pupils progress through the school, their growing knowledge about the world helps them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge and skills are progressive and are sequenced to provide the framework and approaches that provide explanation of how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

We seek to inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people which will remain with them for the rest of their lives, equipping them well for further education and beyond.

Implementation

In Key Stage 1, Geography is taught in separate blocks throughout the year, so that children can achieve depth in their learning and so that the skills taught are embedded. As children progress into Key Stage 2, we combine history and geography together, allowing the children to delve deeper into their learning and to further explore the world around them, the changes that have happened over time and the impact this is having on life today. Teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each topic and these are mapped across the school, ensuring that knowledge builds progressively and that children develop skills systematically. Existing knowledge is checked at the beginning of each lessons with our recall tasks designed by our teachers so our children can learn more and remember more. Tasks are selected and designed to

provide appropriate challenge to all learners, in line with the school's commitment to inclusion. During each topic, key knowledge is reviewed by the children and rigorously checked by the teacher and consolidated as necessary.

The Geography provision is also well resourced and specific resources are mapped to specific year groups and topics to support effective teaching and learning. The local area is fully utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with extensive opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice.

Impact

Outcomes in History/Geography books, evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge relating to each of the identified national curriculum strands, as appropriate to key stage; locational knowledge, place knowledge and human and physical geography. This is in addition to the development and application of key skills, supported by fieldwork.

When children start their school journey, they instantly gain an understanding and appreciation of their local area and as they progress through school they deepen their understanding of its place within the wider geographical context. Geographical understanding, as well as children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is further supported by the school's links with international partner schools and this is recognised by the school's achievement of the British Council's 'International School Award'.

2. Teaching and Learning

The geography curriculum is mapped to ensure alignment with the national curriculum content and programme of study. Key knowledge and skills relate directly and build towards the achievement of the end of key stage 'end points', informed by the KS1 and 2 National Curriculum statements for; **Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human and Physical Geography and Geographical Skills and Fieldwork.**

Each lesson begins by recapping previous learning using recall slides. The LO and success criteria(KS2) are shared at the beginning of the lesson and reviewed by children at the end. They are subsequently used by the teacher during the assessment and review work of children's work and are used to identify individual target areas.

Teaching and learning in geography is supported by resources, including specific texts, websites, atlases, globes and maps. Learning Outside the Classroom is a key feature of geography lessons and specific activities are mapped and planned. These are progressive throughout the school and support the Geographical Skills and Fieldwork strand.

Lessons are planned to ensure that key knowledge is developed over time over the course of each geography topic and in the correct sequence. Key knowledge is reviewed by the children and rigorously checked and consolidated by the teacher at the end of each lesson and then revisited again the following week in line with the recall slides. Lessons within each unit are also planned to ensure the systematic development of the key identified skills across the school.

3. Assessment

Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning cycle. Assessment is supported by use of the following strategies:

- Observing children at work, individually, in pairs, in a group and in class during whole class teaching.
- Using differentiated, open-ended questions that require children to explain and unpick their understanding.
- Providing effective feedback, including interactive marking through green pen questions where appropriate, to engage children with their learning and to provide opportunities for self-assessment, consolidation, depth and target setting.
- Book moderation and monitoring of outcomes of work, to evaluate the range and balance of work and to ensure that tasks meet the needs of different learners (with the acquisition of the pre-identified key knowledge of each topic being evidenced through the outcomes).
- Use of recall slides, know more, remember more strategy throughout a unit, alongside specific and measurable LO's for each lesson
- Child and teacher review of both the agreed success criteria at the end of each lesson and the key knowledge at the end of each unit, to inform focused consolidation where this is necessary.

4. Planning and Resources

Geography texts and resources, specific for each topic, are shared with class teachers at the beginning of the school year and all extra atlases, OS maps and orienteering maps are kept in the subject leads classroom. The library contains a range of geography topic books to support children's individual research. . Planning takes place collaboratively, with Geography and History lead as well as the class teacher. It is saved electronically for ease of access and is informed by the knowledge and skills progression maps, as well as the topic overview. It states the key vocabulary for the unit as well as how learning takes account of the school's own context (for example, it's location, accessible places of geographical interest and members of the school community with specialist expertise and knowledge).

Cross curricular learning is also utilised, with specific opportunities and links planned for and stated on in all planning across school.

5. Organisation

Within the academic year, children in key stage 1, study geography in blocks, as outlined in the overall curriculum framework overview. This allows children to enhance their geographical knowledge and develop their geographical skills through focused daily learning, throughout the duration of each block. This model also promotes the achievement of a greater depth of understanding by the end of a unit. In Key stage 2 Geography is planned and taught alongside History providing the children with a well balanced outlook on the world around them.

6. EYFS

Early years explore a sense of place in the Understanding of the World area of learning in line with the EYFS framework. The key knowledge and skills in EYFS provide the foundation for learning so children are ready

for learning in Year 1. Children are assessed according to the statutory framework and EYFS check points. Our intent is for children to be ready to learn in Year 1 but providing a progressively planned curriculum from Nursery to Reception to Year 1.

7. KS1 and KS2

During Key Stage 1 pupils will investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United Kingdom or abroad, finding out about the environment in both areas and the people who live there. They also begin to learn about the wider world. They carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions about people, places and environments, and use geographical skills and resources such as maps and photographs.

During Key Stage 1 pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their local area. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

Children will develop their **locational knowledge**; they will learn to name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. In addition, they will learn to name, locate and identify the characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.

They will also develop a greater **understanding of place** by comparing the geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom (Whitby, Thornaby), and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country. The specific geographical locations selected for these comparisons will be selected to link to other areas of the curriculum to allow for cross-curricular work and development.

In addition to developing children's locational and place knowledge, they will have the opportunity to learn about **human and physical geography**. During this study, they will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world.. They will also begin to use geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features (beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather) and key human features (city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shops.)

Children will develop **geographical skills and fieldwork skills**, through these three areas of study, where they learn to use world maps, atlases and globes; simple compass directions; aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features and to use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their local area.

During Key Stage 2 Pupils extend and develop their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America; studying the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They continue to develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

They extend their **locational knowledge** when they learn to locate and name European countries as well as North and South America countries, concentrating on their environmental

regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities. In addition to this, they extend their locational knowledge to be able to name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, describing key geographical regions, human and physical characteristics, key topographical features and land-use patterns. This is further extended to identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Equator, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Arctic and Antarctic Circle and the Greenwich Meridian and time zones.

They will build on their **understanding of place** by comparing the geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region of a European country and a region within North or South America.

As in Key Stage 1, the specific geographical locations selected for these comparisons will be selected to link to other areas of the curriculum to allow for cross-curricular work and development.

In Key stage 2 **human and physical geography** knowledge is extended to allow children to develop an understanding of aspects of physical geography (investigating climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle) and human geography (learning about types of settlement and land use, economic activity and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.)

Children will continue to develop **geographical skills and fieldwork skills**, through these three areas of study, where they learn to use maps, atlases and globes and digital/computer mapping; eight-point compass directions; four and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys and the Ordnance Survey maps. They will also use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

8. Equal Opportunities

At St Patrick's school, we are committed to providing a teaching environment which ensures all children are provided with the same learning opportunities regardless of social class, gender, culture, race, special educational need or disability. Teachers use a range of strategies to ensure inclusion and also to maintain a positive ethos where children demonstrate positive attitudes towards others.

Support for specific individuals is well considered and planned for, to ensure that tasks provide learners with an appropriate level of challenge.

9. Inclusion

All pupils are entitled to access the geography curriculum at a level appropriate to their needs.

To ensure inclusion, teachers use a range of strategies in line with the school's inclusion planning key. Independent tasks, as well as teaching, are also well-adapted to ensure an appropriate level of challenge. The school makes full use of additional adults who are deployed effectively to

ensure that identified children are able to make progress in each curriculum area, according to their full potential.

Opportunities for enrichment are also fully utilised, to ensure a fully inclusive and engaging geography curriculum. This is supported through a number of links with places of geographical interest in the immediate and wider locality which engage the children further through contextual and practical learning activities.

10. Role of the Subject Leader

The subject leader's responsibilities are:

- To ensure a high profile of the subject
- To ensure a full range of relevant and effective resources are available to enhance and support learning.
- To model the teaching of geography
- To ensure progression of the key knowledge and skills identified within each unit and that these are integral to the programme of study and secure at the end of each age phase.
- To monitor books and ensure that key knowledge is evidenced in outcomes, alongside and as supported, by SLT
- To monitor planning and oversee the teaching of geography
- To lead further improvement in and development of the subject as informed by effective subject overview
- To ensure that the geography curriculum has a positive effect on all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged or have low attainment
- To ensure that the geography curriculum take account of the school's context, promotes children's pride in the local area and provides access to positive role models from the local area to enhance the geography curriculum
- To ensure that approaches are informed by and in line with current identified good practice and pedagogy; to attend regular opportunities for CPD.

11. Parents

The involvement of families and the wider community, to help support the teaching of geography, is widely encouraged. Enquiries from Parents and members of the school community with specialist expertise and knowledge in relation to supporting the geography curriculum are warmly welcomed. The school will actively seek to establish collaboration with parents and carers who are able to support the teaching and learning of geography at St Patrick's.

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