

**ST. AUSTIN'S R.C.
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Geography Policy

Last Review: November 2020

At St. Austin's Primary School we believe that the teaching of geography should inspire pupils to have a curiosity and fascination about their world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Geography is about the study of environments, landscapes and cultures. Through quality teaching and geographical investigations, pupils will develop geographical skills and enquiry, as well as knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments. They will have the opportunity to study the school, local environment and, as they progress, places further afield.

Geographical enquiry will help the children to learn about their immediate surroundings, the broader world and how the environment can affect their lives and determine decision making. The study of geography will help to develop a sense of identity and promotes responsible citizenship.

Aims

Through the Geography curriculum we aim to help children to:

- Foster an enthusiasm for and an interest in geography
- To develop an awareness of the local environment and use appropriate vocabulary to describe observations and express opinions.
- To raise awareness of other places and environments.
- Develop a contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places.
- Develop an understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.
- Recognise that the environment changes over time due to human and natural processes.
- Develop the use of geographical language and skills, including graphic skills, and use these to find out about different places and make comparisons between places.
- Develop an empathy with people from other cultures and in so doing teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multicultural country.
- To be able to collect, analyse and communicate data gathered from personal experiences and fieldwork.

Objectives

The pupils will achieve these aims by:

- Visiting a variety of places to make first hand observations.
- Participating in regular fieldwork experiences.
- Undertaking studies of different parts of the world.
- Using secondary resources to support study.
- Making and using maps and plans including ICT.
- Studying the way the environment affects an area and how this is continually changing.
- Developing questioning skills and the use of appropriate geographical language.
- Presenting data in a variety of ways including ICT.

Geographical Curriculum

A whole school long-term plan has been devised in order to provide a framework for the geography taught within our school. Throughout both Key stages the geography curriculum is planned and taught using the Learning Challenge Curriculum as a starting point in line with the new National Curriculum 2014. The geography taught in Reception is governed by the Early Years Foundation Stage document.

The children will be encouraged to use appropriate geographical language and skills and to undertake fieldwork in the locality. They will learn to follow directions, make and use simple maps and to develop an increasing understanding of their place in the world. Children in Reception will make observations and identify features in their local environment and begin to see themselves as part of the wider world. The work planned in this year group will follow the Foundation Curriculum Guidance.

Continuity and Progression

The whole school long term plan aims to ensure progression and continuity in the knowledge and skills of geography. The topics cover the curriculum specified in the New Curriculum 2014. Making links between aspects of geography studied is encouraged, enabling children to build upon previous skills and experience. The skills of geographical language and interpretations are revisited throughout the Key Stages reinforcing and extending the understanding of the pupils. The progression statement for geographical learning is published on our school website.

Teaching and Learning

All children are taught geography, whatever their ability. Geography forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Children with additional needs will be supported as appropriate. The use of a variety of enriching teaching approaches and of resources is encouraged through:

- A knowledge mat detailing the learning and vocabulary for each topic area.
- Individual, paired and group research and presentation opportunities.
- Use of photographs, pictures maps and globes.
- Inclusion of ICT-interactive white board and internet resources.
- Fieldwork and visits to places of geographical interest, especially in the local area.
- Teachers will apply English, Mathematics and ICT skills where it is appropriate to do so. A cross-curricular approach is encouraged. This makes it more likely that a rich curriculum can be delivered, as well as providing a more creative enjoyable approach to teaching and learning.

Assessment and reporting

All work will be marked in line with St. Austin's Marking Policy. Teachers will make assessments during lesson time through observations and marking. Pre and post challenge question sheets may

be used to show an individual's progression through topics. Children's progression against Age Related Expectations will be recorded by teachers using the oTrack system.

Parents are informed of their child's progress through the annual end of year report and are able to discuss any concerns with staff at the twice yearly Parents' evenings.

Subject monitoring

The Geography Co-ordinator will monitor medium term planning, children's work and display work through observations and work scrutiny. Through oTrack the co-ordinator also has an overview of standards in geography. The co-ordinator gives feedback to the Link Governor when requested.

Resources

A variety of resources are available in school to support teaching and learning. The co-ordinator keeps a record of resources and reviews them annually. Resources are accessible in the resources area in the school hall. Books are also ordered from St. Helens Schools Library Service under a service level agreement to supplement different topics. Staff may use internet resources and have log in access to the Geographical Association's website.

COVID-19 update

In the event of children needing to isolate, the school will ensure that children are able to access the geography curriculum. This will be implemented through TEAMS and the work will be appropriate for the year group in question. The TEAMS platform allows children to participate in online learning and receive feedback. The platform will be used to set assignments or share resources to support learning. Teachers will refer to the e-safety policy when operating TEAMS. If children are unable to access TEAMS, the work will be made available on paper copies.

Signed: _____ (on behalf of staff)

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (on behalf of governors)

Date _____