



Geography Curriculum Statement

Why is Geography important?

Geography lessons are vital in order to understand and gain knowledge of our world. Children learn key skills such as map reading and develop an understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes, which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. An awareness of the wider world equips children with a knowledge of where things are found, why they are there and how they develop and change over time. It highlights the relationships between people and their environments. Through geography, children learn the importance of tolerance and respect by helping them to recognise their responsibility in our world. It develops an awareness of climate change and the impact that everyday actions create.

What is Geography like at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery?

At St. George's Central, we inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We explore these themes using many sources, including world artwork, maps, globes, photographs and ICT; ensuring a well-balanced and interactive method of learning for all children. With an emphasis on learning about, and using our own environment, our children develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their immediate locality. We help children to understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography in our own country, as well as in other regions in the world. By incorporating this comparative approach, we encourage our children to actively question the world around them.

We support the National Curriculum aims for Geography, seeking to ensure that all children:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time.
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes.
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

National Curriculum in England, September 2013 (DfE)

In Nursery and Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum where 'Understanding the world' is one of the specific areas of learning. Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, geography is embedded through the 'Understanding the World' area of learning. Children begin to develop their geographical knowledge by exploring their immediate environment, talking about places that are familiar to them such as home, school and the local area. Through first-hand experiences, stories, maps, photographs and outdoor learning, children learn to notice similarities and differences between places, environments and communities. They develop early geographical vocabulary, an awareness of the natural world and an understanding of how people and places are connected, laying strong foundations for later geographical learning.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

Ways to explore Spirituality in Geography

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that our curriculum should provide opportunities for children to develop a love of learning, so that they go on to make a positive difference to themselves, their community and the wider world. We have developed a definition of what we believe Spirituality is:

'Spirituality is...an understanding of how beliefs, values and experiences shape the identity of individuals, their spiritual disciplines and connections with life.'

Our Geography curriculum provides opportunities for spiritual development through/by:

- Awe and wonder, encountering the world as a gift from God. We experience this through the study of physical geography, such as mountains, rivers and oceans. These encounters encourage reflection on the beauty, power and complexity of creation, helping our pupils to appreciate the world as something precious and worth looking after.
- Identity and belonging, understanding ourselves in relation to others and the world. Through learning about our local area and comparing it with other places, we can reflect on how places shape identity, community and belonging. This supports our children in developing a sense of who they are, where they belong and how their lives connect with the lives of others.
- Respect for beliefs, cultures and worldviews: dignity and respect for all. Human geography enables our children to explore how beliefs, values and traditions influence how people live around the world. This deepens understanding of diversity and develops respect, empathy and tolerance; recognising the worth of every individual as created and valued by God.
- Valuing meanings and connections, allowing us to make sense of the world and our place within it. Geography helps our children to explore the relationship between people and their environments, supporting reflection on how places affect emotions, wellbeing and ways of life.
- Space for reflection and spiritual discipline through fieldwork and outdoor learning. Fieldwork provides opportunities for stillness, observation and reflection. We encourage our children to pause, notice and respond thoughtfully to the world around them, developing reflective habits that support spiritual awareness.
- Perspective and humility as we recognise the 'bigger' picture. Using maps, globes, aerial photographs and digital tools helps children understand the scale and diversity of the world and their place within God's wider creation.
- Hope and aspiration by exploring how places change over time and considering future challenges, children reflect on hope, responsibility and the possibility of positive change. Our geography curriculum supports children in thinking deeply about how they can contribute to a fairer and more sustainable world.

Opportunities to celebrate Geography at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

Visitors in school, quality texts in the library, trips linked to Geography topics studied.

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