

St John the Baptist Curriculum Vision Subject: Geography



Vision

Our aim is that children leave our school with a good understanding of the world and their place in it, outside their immediate environment and locality. Children should leave our school with the ability and curiosity to ask and answer questions about the world around them. They will have gained a range of investigation and problem-solving skills which will have promoted their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We aim for children to be curious about the world around them and be interested to learn about diverse places and people in their world as well as learning about natural and human environments through such as technology and visitors to give children these experiences.

Context

Our children are mostly very aware of their immediate local area. It is a very close knit community and children play out with each other on the estate. Children are less aware of the wider geographical environment and exposure to the wide range of local geographical features is limited. Due to this we spend more time learning to care for our local environment and treat it with respect than we do learning about it. We spend more time investigating the wider area such as the River Tees, coast and countryside through curriculum visits and our promises. We also make explicit links for our children about landmarks and the location of them throughout the United Kingdom not just what you would find in the Teesside area.

Therefore, in EYFS...

During EYFS children will start by understanding position through words alone, describe a familiar route and discuss routes and locations. They will use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials, begin to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Children will talk about the differences between their home country and other countries through experience and what they have seen in photos or on videos. As they progress children will be able to draw information from a simple map, recognise similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. Children will explore the natural world around them in the outdoor space and school garden and recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. This will be achieved through They are- My Everyday Life, Fantasy and Adventure, and Place I'd like to go.

By the end of EYFS children who meet the ELG will be able to describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observations, discussion, stories, nonfiction texts and maps. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries and drawing on knowledge from stories.

In KS1...

During KS1 children will start each year by learning essential skills through the knowledge projects Our Wonderful World and Let's Explore the World. This enables children to be introduced to, or revisit, geographical concepts, aspects, skills and knowledge. In cycle A, the spring term children study Bright Lights, Big City this project introduces children to the physical and human features and focuses on famous landmarks, this supports knowledge of features in the capital city. In cycle B, the spring term children will be taught a detailed study of coastal geography through Coastline in this topic we could arrange a trip to a local seaside.

By the end of KS1 children will have been exposed to world's seven continents and five oceans, they will be able to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. The children will build upon prior knowledge of the surrounding areas and identify physical and human geography such as beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river soil and valley. They should also be able to describe these by size and location.

In LKS2...

During LKS2 children will continue to extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This includes the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. LKS2 begins with essential skills through One Planet, Our World and Interconnected World. This enables children to develop their knowledge and understanding of key geographical aspects. Rocks, Relics and Rumbles explores the physical features including earthquakes and volcanoes. By contrast children will also look at mountains, rivers and will have opportunities for in-depth field work in Misty Mountain, Winding Rivers.

By the end of LKS2 children will have increased their knowledge of geography and the role it plays in our world. They should be able to name and describe properties of the Earth's four layers and describe the parts of a volcano or earthquake. Children should be able to draw conclusions about places through geographical features using a range of resources such as maps. Atlases, globes and digital mapping. Children should be able to identify, describe and explain the formation of different mountain types.

In UKS2...

During UKS2 children will cover two projects with a Geography focus known as Sow, Grow and Farm and Frozen Kingdoms. In the project Sow, Grow and Farm children will learn about the five main climate zones in the world focusing on the temperature, rainfall and mountain depending on altitude. Children will also be introduced to the three agricultural land use in the UK but also farming around the world and how this differs. In the project Frozen Kingdoms the children will be taught the geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region in the UK, a region in a European country and a region within North or South America. Children will look at climate and how it is a long term pattern of weather found in a particular place.

By the end of UKS2 children will be able to identify and describe some key physical features and environmental regions of North and South America and explain how these, along with the climate zones and soil types, can affect land use. Children should also be able to compare and describe physical features of polar landscapes. Children should be able to explain that longitude and latitude are measured in degrees.

Developing spirituality and British Values

At St. John the Baptist we teach with love, understanding and respect for all. It is supported in our expectations, behaviour and school motto 'Everyone different, everyone loved' and following the three R's of readiness, respect and resilience.

We actively promote British Values through our core Christian Values which are embedded throughout school. British Values is a common theme of geography as we actively promote through teaching and it is at the forefront of everything that we do regardless of the subject. Our country is run through democracy and that we all have a say whereas other countries may not and will abide by this in school. It can be something that we don't think about a lot but there are places around the world where people don't have a lot of freedom but in the UK we have freedom of speech, this will encourage children to think about how lucky they are compared to others in other countries. The laws that we have in this country support and shape our community. In our school we promote votes, choices, mutual respect, group work and encourage children to be positive about different people and their backgrounds. One way which is do this is through books as we promote people who have fantastic achievements from different backgrounds. British Values are also taught through the element of respect for our school, environment and the world. In geography we celebrate the similarities and differences between different countries and continents through events such as festival days.

We teach all of the curriculum subjects through our Christian values that are embedded in our school rules and in our school motto. Children will be encouraged to explore their spirituality as they learn about different ways of life around the world. This is closely linked to RE as they discover which religions are mainly in different parts of the world. Children are encouraged to ask questions about what it means to have certain beliefs and how this can be impacted depending on geographical location. In worship we share stories with Christian values from all over the world. This encourages a sense of spirituality for our children.