St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Geography Policy

We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus

Approved by	
Name:	Nicola Pettitt
Position:	Geography Governor
Signed:	N Pettitt
Date:	27.01.2022
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Policy on *Geography*

INTENT

Geography explores the relationship between the earth and its people through the study of the physical and human features of the earth, the influence of the environment on human behaviour and lifestyles, and the natural resources people use. At St. Mary's our geography curriculum has been designed to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum, provide our children with a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and for the children to have a love for geography. We aim to develop our children's curiosity and fascination about the world, equip them with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments.

The key concepts in geography that we plan a progression for are as follows:

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

At St. Mary's our children will investigate a range of places, both in the United Kingdom and other countries, in order to help develop their knowledge and understanding of their world and the earth's physical and human processes. We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area, a geographical journey from the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Key Stage 2, developing the key geographical skills. Our aim is for children to develop of real sense of who they are, their town and what makes our local area unique and special. We aim to develop and extend the children's ability to apply geographical knowledge, skills and understanding, ensuring that they are competent in building on these specific skills, to enable them to confidently communicate their findings and geographical understanding.

Aims and objectives:

- To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality, and interaction between people and environment.
- To extend their knowledge, interest and understanding of contrasting localities in Britain, Europe and the rest of our world.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the human and physical processes which shape places.
- To appreciate similarity and differences in our world and respect other people's beliefs, attitudes and values.
- To develop the geographical skills and vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquires.
- To develop interest and enjoyment of geographical experiences and build confidence and understanding.
- To recognise and understand issues concerns environments and sustainable development.

IMPLEMETATION

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a well-planned curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Geography is taught as half termly and termly units, focusing on the knowledge and skills from the National Curriculum. Our geography units often link to other areas of our curriculum, in order to build a whole picture for the children. At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we ensure that geography knowledge and skills are carefully sequenced enabling reinforcement from previous year groups. We feel this provides the children to learn more, know more and remember more.

At St. Mary's geography involves:

- Undertaking of field work in our local area – Whitehaven.
- Comparing and contrasting land form, land uses, weather and seasons.
- The use of secondary sources e.g. photos, books, media and videos to obtain geographical information.
- Naming the physical and human features of different places.
- Using developing geographical language.
- Developing geographical skills of; making observations and measuring, recording through observations, map work, sketches and diagrams.
- Using maps, globes, atlases and interpreting photographs.
- Helping our children understand and appreciate the variety of responses to the same basic needs (ethnic, cultures) and imagine what it might be like to experience life in other places.

We believe that our geography teaching focuses on enabling children to think as geographers – as we provide many opportunities to study their local environment as well as many other beautiful areas of our planet. At St. Mary's School our fieldwork opportunities provide opportunities for geography both inside and outside of the classroom. We plan educational visits linked to units, where possible, in order to enrich the children's learning, as well as allowing them the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills into the real world and experiences.

Planning

At St. Mary's School geography has been sequentially planned by the geography leader, where the units have been chosen and under pinned by the National Curriculum expectations in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Our long term planning maps out the geography units which are studied during each term, within Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The medium term planning has also been planned in detail by the geography lead, to ensure clear sequencing and progression of knowledge and skills throughout the children's geographical journey at St Mary's School. Individual class teachers then use the geography planning to create their short term planning.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in our EYFS department at St. Mary's follow a curriculum based on the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework 2021, the educational programmes within it, the advice and guidance in the Development Matters. As well as our whole school community assessment of the barriers our children face, their interests, needs and what they value and enjoy.

Geography is covered through the Understanding the World and some Mathematics strands within the Early Years Statutory Framework 2021. We teach our children geographical knowledge and skills through an overarching topic based approach which is flexible to meet needs and interests of each given cohort. There are opportunities within all topics for geographical knowledge and skills to be taught, but the way in this is approached will vary each year depending on cohorts needs and interests. EYFS staff constantly assess children to ensure coverage and progress in all curriculum areas.

At the end of Reception the children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals and those which link directly to geography within understanding of the world are:

The Natural World where children have to:

- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons.

People, Cultures and Communities where children have to:

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.

IMPACT

At St. Mary's our children will demonstrate their ability in geography though a variety of different ways, showing the development of knowledge and skills from across the year groups.

Our younger children, may name and identify local places on a map or globe and answer simple geographical questions expressing their views on the environment and weather and develop simple field work skills. Further into the older stages of school, children use various ways to express their understanding of geography by applying their map, graph and field work skills into practical ways. They will be able to explain and express their views on geographical environments showing competent skills of a true geographer.

Assessment

At St. Mary's, we assess the children's work in geography by making informal judgements during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and uses this information to plan for future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress. Children in Key Stage 2 are given feedback and expected to respond to their feedback to improve their work and understanding. Once the unit of has been completed, teachers will make a summary judgement on whether the pupil is working below, above, or at the age-related expectation. This information is recorded on the school's MIS system, Insight.

Health and Safety

At St. Mary's children are taught:

- Safe practices in the field and how to achieve them.
- How to use equipment in accordance with health and safety guidelines.
- To behave considerably and responsibility, showing respect for others and the environment whilst out of the classroom.

Teachers:

- Ensure risk assessments are completed before field trips are agreed.
- Discuss all planned visit and trips with the head teacher.
- Ensure adequate supervision and ratios are organised before all visits and trips.

Monitoring and review

To monitor and evaluate geography the subject leader will:

- Support colleagues in their teaching, by keeping them informed about current developments in geography and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject.
- Team teach, observe staff and give them feedback, monitor the medium term planning, undertake work scrutinies and questionnaires.
- Provide an annual summary report to identify the strengths and weaknesses in geography and indicates areas for further improvement.
- Discuss with the head teacher and geography governor the progress of geography within school. This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Signed: S. McAdam

Date: 27.02.22