



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Geography Policy

God made us all unique
To learn, live and grow
To show care, concern and friendship
To be the best we can
Showing Christ's love in all we do.

Geography Policy

Rationale

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we believe that geography stimulates curiosity and imagination and we aim to build upon the child's 'personal geography' by developing geographical skills, understanding and knowledge through studying places and themes.

Geography is a valued part of the curriculum as it provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. Geography explores the relationship between the earth and its people.

Aims

- *To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality, and the interaction between people and environment.*
- *To extend their interest, knowledge and understanding of contrasting localities in Britain, Europe and the rest of the world.*
- *To develop knowledge and understanding of the human and physical processes which shape places.*
- *To appreciate similarity and difference in the world about them and to respect other people's beliefs, attitudes and values.*
- *To develop the geographical skills and vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.*
- *To formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions.*
- *To develop interest and enjoyment of geographical experiences and build confidence and understanding.*
- *To recognise and understand issues concerning the environment and sustainable development.*

Implementation of Policy

Geography explores the relationship between the earth and its peoples through the study of the physical and human features of earth, the influence of the environment on human behaviour and lifestyles, and the natural resources people use.

We have used the best research to create a well sequenced and progressive curriculum map containing the key concepts children need to be procedurally fluent in to work, think and write like geographers.

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

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

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, geography involves;

- *Undertaking fieldwork in the local area.*
- *Comparing and contrasting land- forms, land uses, weather, seasons and ecosystems.*
- *The use of secondary sources e.g. photos, books, media and videos, to obtain geographical information.*
- *Following directions using positional and directional language, also using these to direct others.*
- *Expressing and evaluating views on the attractive and unattractive features of the environment, e.g. tidiness, noise, building on greenbelt land.*
- *Naming the physical features of places, e.g. mountain, sea, beach, factory, valley.*
- *Using developing language to talk about their work e.g. route, scale, tide, erosion, climate, temperate, continent.*
- *Developing geographical skills of; making observations and measuring, recording observations through maps, talk, and writing, taking photographs, sketches and diagrams.*
- *Using maps, globes, atlases and interpreting photographs.*

- *Helping the children appreciate the variety of responses to the same basic needs (ethnic, cultural and economic) and to imagine what it might be like to experience life in other places.*

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We use whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions.

We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, video and aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning.

In geography lessons, children take part in role-play and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class. Children learn about other places through reading stories with settings in different places and in different landscapes. They make outside visits and engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities.

The objectives of geography teaching in the school are based on the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for key stages 1 and 2. The geography curriculum of the school will therefore help children to experience the following key aspects of the programme of study:

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC)

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that education for sustainable development and global citizenship prepares children for life in the 21st century. ESDGC needs to be embedded into the curriculum and all aspects of school life, helping to create an ethos of responsibility on the local, national and global scale.

Geography contributes to learners' understanding of ESDGC as they work in contexts that allow them to make decisions based on the values that underpin society, helping them become active and informed citizens. They are encouraged to be enterprising and innovative in their decision making, while having regard for sustainability and environmental issues in the 21st century.

Children are supported to demonstrate the following geographical skills and knowledge:

- *Showing their knowledge, skills and understanding in studies at a local scale.*
- *Expressing views on the environment of a locality and recognize how people affect the environment.*
- *Using this information and their own observations to help them ask and respond to questions about places and environments.*
- *Recognise how people seek to improve and sustain environments.*
- *Suggest explanations for the ways in which human activities cause changes to the environment and the different views people hold about them.*
- *Recognise how people try to manage environments sustainably.*

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School's Approach to Geography

Geographical work undertaken within the school has been carefully organised to provide breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, as well as developing skills. The development throughout the two key stages builds on children's previous work.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Nursery and Reception classes geography is taught as an integral part of topic work covered in the EYFS setting. In the EYFS geography is about the children having the opportunities to find out and learn about the world they live in. The geography side of the children's work is related to the understanding of the world objectives set out in the EYFS curriculum.

Key Stages 1 and 2

At Key Stage 1, geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to the children's own environment and the people who live there and developing an awareness of the wider world through cross-curricular topics.

At key stage 2, geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to people, places and environments at different scales in the United Kingdom and overseas and an appreciation of how places relate to each other and the wider world. Geography is taught as a discrete subject in Key Stage 2.

Health and Safety

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, children are taught:

- *Safe practices in the field and how to achieve them.*
- *How to use equipment in accordance with the health and safety guidelines.*
- *To behave considerably and responsibly, showing respect for other people and their environment whilst on trips outside the classroom.*

Teachers:

- *Ensure risk assessments are completed before any field trips are agreed.*
- *Discuss all planned trips with the Headteacher.*
- *Ensure adequate supervision is organised for all field work.*

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, the role of the geography leader is to:

- *Support colleagues in teaching the subject through the progressive and sequenced curriculum map.*
- *Renew, update and complement resources needed to deliver the curriculum, within budget restraints.*
- *Audit current practice identify strengths and areas to improve.*
- *Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity.*
- *Keep abreast of developments in geography education and media usage*

Assessment

We assess the children's work in geography by making informal judgements as we observe the children during lessons. In Key Stage 2, once the children complete a unit of work, they complete an assessed task. At the end of the academic year, we make a summary judgement for children and consider whether they have yet to obtain, obtained or exceeded the end of year expectations outlined on the geography curriculum map. Class teachers

keep the children's geography work in the topic folders/books. In Key Stage 2, geography books are passed on from year to year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of geography takes place throughout the school by:

- *Learning walks and providing feedback.*
- *Environment walks.*
- *Monitoring of children's books.*
- *Discussions with both adults and children.*
- *Looking at classroom displays.*
- *Reviewing resource provision.*

Geography and ICT

ICT plays an integral part in the teaching and learning of geography. Clear links to ICT is made in planning and every opportunity to explore links with ICT are used.

Differentiation

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities and responding and adapting our teaching to the children's individual needs. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school.

Equal Opportunities

All children will be given equal access to geography irrespective of race, gender and creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of geography.

Resources

All topics have resource boxes containing a range of resources to aid the teaching of that subject. Resources are audited annually and reviewed through discussion with teachers.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to Carolyn Ferguson or Anne Bullerwell.