St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Geography

Intent

It is the intent that children at St Joseph's will develop a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them throughout their lives. We aim to inspire children to become curious and knowledgeable geographers who have a strong understanding of the world around them, its diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments.

Throughout the school, we will develop children's understanding of their local area, the United Kingdom and the wider world. We want children to recognise how places are connected and how they are similar and different, as well as understanding how physical and human processes shape our world. We will encourage children to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world, appreciate its diversity and understand the importance of caring for our planet and its resources.

It is also key that we teach children how to be geographers – including how to use maps, atlases, globes, aerial photographs and digital resources to investigate and understand the world. Children will develop their ability to ask geographical questions, collect and interpret data, observe patterns and communicate their findings using appropriate geographical vocabulary. This will enable them to become confident, independent and inquisitive geographers as they leave St Joseph's, with an understanding of their place in the world and their responsibilities as global citizens.

Implementation

We teach the National Curriculum, supported by the Kapow Primary Geography scheme of work and a clear skills and knowledge progression. This ensures that geographical knowledge and skills are built upon year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children. The Kapow scheme provides a progressive approach to developing children's geographical understanding, ensuring that they revisit and build upon key concepts throughout their time at St Joseph's.

It is important that children develop progressive skills as geographers and do not simply learn a series of facts about different places. Through our Geography curriculum, pupils develop their ability to investigate places, understand geographical processes and communicate geographical information. They learn to use maps, atlases and other geographical resources, interpret data, identify patterns and draw conclusions about the world around them. We encourage children to ask questions, make comparisons and develop their own opinions about geographical issues.

Where possible, we make cross-curricular links with other subjects to help pupils make deeper connections with their learning. For example, pupils may use their mathematical skills to interpret geographical data, develop their writing through geographical research and reports, or use their scientific knowledge to explore weather, habitats and the environment. Links are also made with History, allowing children to consider how places and environments have changed over time.

We recognise that there are children of differing abilities in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children. We achieve this through a range of strategies such as vocabulary banks, visuals, maps, diagrams, adult and peer support, classroom displays, differentiated verbal questioning and worksheets, as well as differentiating by expected outcome. Learning is also supported through the use of knowledge organisers, which provide children with an outline of each unit of study and support them in retaining key geographical knowledge and vocabulary in their long-term memory.

St Joseph's aims to provide a motivating and engaging Geography curriculum through practical activities, fieldwork, educational visits and meaningful experiences that create memorable learning opportunities. Where possible, children are encouraged to explore their local area, developing their fieldwork skills and making connections between their learning and the world around them. We aim to provide opportunities for children to experience Geography beyond the classroom, helping them to understand the relevance of the subject in everyday life and develop an appreciation of the environment and their role in protecting it.

Impact

By the time the children at St Joseph's leave our school they should have developed:

- A secure knowledge and understanding of places, people, resources and natural and human environments, including a strong understanding of the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- An understanding of key geographical concepts, including location, place, scale, interdependence, physical and human processes and environmental change.
- The ability to use geographical vocabulary confidently and accurately when describing, explaining and discussing geographical features and processes.
- The ability to use a range of geographical resources, including maps, atlases, globes, aerial photographs and digital technologies, to investigate and understand the world.
- The ability to collect, interpret and analyse geographical data, identify patterns and communicate their findings confidently.
- The confidence to ask and respond to geographical questions, make comparisons between different places and develop their own lines of enquiry.
- An understanding of how human activity impacts on the environment and an awareness of the importance of sustainability and protecting our planet.
- An appreciation of the diversity of people, places and cultures around the world, showing respect and understanding towards others.
- A passion for Geography and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, developing their curiosity and fascination about the world and their place within it.
- A desire to embrace challenging geographical activities, including opportunities to undertake fieldwork, research and independent investigations.