



St. Andrew's C of E (VA) Primary School

Geography Curriculum Statement

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

Our vision for Geography at St Andrew's

At St Andrew's C of E Primary School we are committed to providing all children with learning opportunities to engage in geography. Geography is an essential part of the curriculum, 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 through the study of place, space and environment. It contributes to the cultural, social, spiritual and moral life of children as they acquire knowledge of a range of different cultures and traditions, and learn tolerance and understanding of other people and environments. Geography is the subject in which pupils learn the skills of understanding a locality and how and where people fit into its overall structure. Developing geographical skills is essential as children live in a world that is wide open to them. With opportunities to travel and work in different cities and countries across the world, pupils need to be able to use maps, charts and other geographical data. The opportunities for the children to carry out geographical enquiry are also of value.

The teaching of Geography would be difficult without acknowledging the future of our planet. The Geography Curriculum places great importance on the interaction between the physical and the human environment. Many areas of study give opportunities to make children aware of these effects upon their surroundings, their own responsibilities and how they can contribute to improving the environment, however small that contribution might be.

Geography Intent:

The aims of geography are:

- To stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and develop a knowledge and understanding of the physical and human processes which shape places.
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To provide learning opportunities that enthuse, engage, and motivate children to learn and foster a sense of curiosity and wonder at the beauty of the world around them.
- To encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means.
- To make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality and the interaction between people and the environment.
- To develop the geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps of different scales, and the vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To be able to apply map reading skills to globes and atlas maps and identify geographical features.
- To formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions.
- To enable children to work geographically in a range of appropriate contexts, using a variety of materials and equipment including other people's experiences and knowledge.

Geography Implementation:

The children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, aptitudes and physical, emotional and intellectual development. Through geography the children learn a range of skills, concepts,

attitudes and methods of working. It is our intention at St. Andrew's to teach Geography in stimulating and engaging ways, endeavoring to provide as many cross curriculum links as possible through our creative curriculum. Furthermore, we will ensure there is clear progression in key concepts, vocabulary and skills for all children as they move up the school.

YF	Geography is taught in Foundation as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Framework which underpin the planning for children aged three to five. Geography makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as finding out about different places and habitats and investigating our locality.
KS1	During Key Stage 1, pupils investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United Kingdom or abroad, finding out about the environment in both areas and the people who live there. They also begin to learn about the wider world. They carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions about people, places and environments, and use geographical skills and resources, such as maps and photographs.
KS2	During Key Stage 2, pupils investigate a variety of people, places and environments in the United Kingdom and abroad, and start to make links between different places in the world. They find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. Pupils carry out geographical enquiry inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions, and use geographical skills and resources, such as maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT. Children will develop geographical enquiry skills, including asking geographical questions, collecting and recording information and identifying different views. They will acquire the appropriate practical skills associated with Geography, including using suitable vocabulary, fieldwork techniques and maps, plans and atlases. Pupils will use secondary sources of information with accuracy, including aerial photographs, satellite images, etc. As well as making its own distinctive contribution to the school curriculum, geography contributes to the wider aims of primary education. Teachers will ensure that links between subjects are maximized.

Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in geography. We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to handle artifacts and 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, aerial photographs, geographical footage and we enable them to use IT in geography lessons where this serves to enhance their learning. Children take part in roleplay and discussions, and they present reports to the rest of the class. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities, e.g. research of a local environmental problem, visiting relevant sites and carrying out fieldwork. We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies which are differentiated by task, expected outcome and/or support from peers or adults.

Support

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this through a range of strategies which are differentiated by task, expected outcome and/or support from peers or adults.

Geography curriculum planning

At St Andrew's CoE Primary School, Geography is taught through a theme approach alongside Design & Technology, History and Art. Our curriculum is carefully planned over a two year cycle to engage and excite all our learners. Our long-term and medium-term plans map out the skills and themes covered each term for each key stage. These plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

Geography Impact:

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Spiritual development: Through helping pupils to recognise the beauty and diversity of the world. A geographical awareness helps children understand their place in the world. Geography provides opportunities for children to learn about sites of wonder, or physical features that they might wish to visit in the future, for example St Lucia, the Amazon Rainforest or the Grand Canyon.

Moral development: Through helping pupils to reflect on how the environment is affected by decisions made by people, so that the children can make informed choices in the future. Through discussion, the children learn to appreciate the moral dilemmas posed by introducing changes to the environment (for example, building a motorway) and the effects this can have on the surrounding area.

Social development: Through helping pupils to understand the need to consider the views of others when discussing localities, settlements and the environment. Work on a locality in a less economically developed country provides an opportunity to discuss social issues. Fieldwork encourages collaborative projects, making the most of different strengths and interests within a team.

Cultural development: By exploring different settlements, the children can gain knowledge of different cultures, learning tolerance and understanding of their diversity.

Assessment, Recording and Monitoring

At St Andrew's School, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and that progress is being made. Teachers assess each lesson, establishing which children have not met, or exceeded the lesson objective. Teachers then use this assessment to inform planning and to facilitate differentiation in future lessons. Assessment recording documents are shared with future teachers during class handover, to ensure smooth transition.

Children are encouraged to make personal assessments of their own work through evaluating activities, traffic lighting achievement against objectives and success criteria and the use of talk partners. Children complete a concept map at the start of each theme, detailing what they already know. This task is completed again at the end of the term, detailing newly acquired knowledge. Through these, both children and adults are able to recognise the progress being made.

Monitoring takes place termly through sampling children work, discussion with teachers about planning, book scrutinies, lesson observations or pupil voice groups.

Overall Impact

The overall impact of history teaching at St Andrew's is evidenced through the improvement in children's knowledge and understanding of Geographical thinking and key concepts and ideas. They will be more able to discuss key vocabulary, using examples and curriculum links as they move up the school. Through the spirals of our curriculum design, children will build on their knowledge base year on year, developing a deeper understanding of the world in which we live and how it has evolved.