

St Mary of the Angels Geography Policy

2023-2024

Our Mission Statement:

Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life



Aims and Objectives

Geography teaches an understanding of place and environment. The aims of geography are:

- to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world;
- 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 allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- to enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- to encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- to develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, mixed media, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

Geography Curriculum Planning

Our school uses the National Curriculum for Geography as the basis for its curriculum planning. Planning for Geography is incorporated within long term planning, thematic termly plans and short-term weekly plans. Geography skills are planned systematically to ensure a clear progression of skills and knowledge year group on year group. End Points have been developed to break down the National Curriculum into progressive chunks which are split amongst each year group. Using our End Points, we are able to assess the knowledge and skills that our children have learnt and recap on any prior learning needed.

Teaching and Learning

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our geography lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real-life' geographical activities and place a high emphasis on the importance of pertinent fieldwork opportunities.

We recognise the fact that there are children of different abilities and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- using our allotted LOfC sessions to teach geographical skills outside of the classroom and embedding learning opportunities through purposeful visits and visitors
- providing a range of challenges using different resources;
- using teaching assistants to support the work of individual children or groups of children

Assessment for Learning

Children demonstrate their ability in Geography in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in Geography by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. Teachers give oral or written feedback as necessary to inform future progress in line with the End Point being covered. Coverage and progression are recorded on our internal assessment system, and children will be assessed against yearly end point targets. Teachers make informal assessments against progress in Geography on a termly basis.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We teach geography in the EYFS as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year, relating the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals. Geography makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.