



Geography POLICY

Intent

At St Clare's, our vision is that through inspiring and investigative Geography lessons our children will have a clear understanding of how the world works. Geography can produce those awe and wonder moments and it has the potential to capture children's minds like no other subject. At St Clare's, our children will explore their own locality, the United Kingdom and its capital cities, identify seasonal weather patterns and look at hot and cold areas of the globe all before they end Key Stage 1. As they move on, children will extend their knowledge to a wider area of the globe and look at human and physical features of our planet. They will look at the impact of time zones; understand the significance of latitude and longitude as well as being able to locate different countries and their borders. Children will study physical changes in and on the Earth as well as economic activity (including the distribution of food, energy and water.)

At St Clare's, our Geography curriculum aims to inspire pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Our teaching equips pupils with knowledge about: diverse places and people; resources in the environment; human and physical processes; and formation and use of landscapes. In addition, we aim to develop the children's geographical skills such as: collecting and analysing data; using maps, globes and digital mapping to name and identify countries, continents and oceans; and communicating information in a variety of ways. Through our teaching, we want children to enjoy learning about geography. The enjoyment of the subject will be delivered via experiences in the classroom and out of the classroom, such as fieldwork and educational visits.

The geography curriculum at St Clare's enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas and which can and are used to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world as well as their place in it. Geography is an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and skills that are progressive, as well as transferable, throughout and beyond their time at St Clare's.

Implementation

Our long term planning throughout the school ensures coverage of the National Geography curriculum. Geography at St Clare's is taught in discrete topics throughout the year. The subject is taught over three half terms per year, focusing on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum.

At St Clare's, we have identified the key knowledge and skills of each blocked topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. Pupils are encouraged to develop geographical skills in lessons and are challenged by a curriculum, which allows a local and global understanding of our lives and the processes within it. At St Clare's, we have high Geography expectations of pupils and therefore, pupils are regularly assessed during lessons and following a unit of work.

The vast majority of geography topics are taught discretely but links across subjects are planned to promote distance learning.

Impact

In Geography lessons, all pupils will have consistent access to high quality, safe and broad lessons, which develop their geographical knowledge, skills and experiences. Children will also be encouraged to develop an interest in our world via the means of fieldwork and interesting activities. The children's knowledge and understanding are assessed against the 2014 National Curriculum statements for Geography. This is both ongoing, to inform future planning with staff, leaders and parents. This ensures lessons are suited to the needs of the children, and by the end of each key stage, content within the National Curriculum is covered to prepare pupils for the next phase. It is our aim at St Clare's that all children make good progress and achieve the end of key stage expectations in Geography.

Curriculum Planning of Geography

Both Key Stage 1 and 2 follow the National Curriculum 2014 both within the classroom and outside activities are planned to encourage full participation by all children irrespective of ability. Fieldwork activities are an important part of geography and form an integral part of geography curriculum planning. At the beginning of each school year the children take part in a local area field work activity, which is planned and will develop their knowledge and skills as they progress through each key stage. The geography curriculum will be delivered by class teachers.

Teaching and Learning Styles

The teaching and organisation of Geography will:

- Where appropriate, be supported by educational visits and visitors to enhance learning.
- Include the use of a variety of primary and secondary sources, e.g. variety of maps, pictures, photographs and aerial photographs, newspapers, census data and other written sources, video footage, educational broadcasts, music, statistics and graphs.
- Involve an enquiry approach, with work organised around key geographical questions.
- Include a practical approach with hands-on activities, role play and discussions.

At St Clare's, we promote a variety of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. We are aware that children will have preferred learning styles, and incorporate visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles into our teaching. 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 questions. We offer them the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, aerial photographs, and we enable them to use ICT where this serves to enhance their learning.

We encourage visitors to come into the school and talk about their experiences of places. Children take part in role-play and discussions; they engage in a variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the children in 'real' geographical activities where we encourage children to question the validity of their sources and information.

Cross Curricular Links

English

Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Children develop their English skills through composing/reading reports, letters, explanatory texts and taking part in debates of a geographical nature.

Mathematics

Geography contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. Children learn to use numbers and develop analytical skills e.g. analysing population statistics. Children also have the opportunity to learn to interpret information presented in graphical or diagrammatic form.

Computing

Children use computing skills in Geography to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work, and they research information using the Internet. Children have the opportunity to use digital equipment to record data and use photographic images. Computing is used widely in the teaching of Geography.

Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health and Emotional Education (PSCHE)

Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social, citizenship health and emotional education. Children develop self-confidence by having opportunities to explain their views on a number of social questions such as how society should respond to poverty, homelessness, recycling and environmental issues and how areas changed for better or for worse. They learn how society is made up of people from different cultures and start to develop tolerance and respect for others. Thus Geography in our school promotes the concept of positive citizenship and community cohesion with other communities on both a local to global scale.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

We offer the children at St Clare's many opportunities to examine the fundamental questions in life through Geography. For example, in Geography, their work on the changing landscape and environmental issues leads children to ask questions about the evolution of the planet. Through teaching about contrasting localities, we enable the children to learn about inequality and injustice in the world, a theme which links to and is covered in our RE work. In Geography, we help children to develop their knowledge and understanding of different cultures so that they learn to avoid stereotyping other people and acquire a positive attitude towards others.

Resources

At St Clare's, resources are shared by all teachers. A variety of resources, including maps and atlases, are available across the school. Teachers have access to the Oddizzi and its resources including images, photographs, a variety of maps and videos. Websites (including The Geography Association) have been set up for teachers and are to be used in Geography lessons, when needed. EYFS and KS1 have access on the interactive boards to the Collin's atlas. Teachers are responsible for the care of equipment.

Health and Safety

All fieldwork trips must be carefully planned and organised with due consideration to agreed St Clare's guidelines. These guidelines must be followed without exception. All school visits must be agreed and approved in advance by the Head teacher, Mrs Mackenzie. Please refer to St Clare's Online Safety Policy as well as our Health and Safety Policy.

Assessment and Recording

Children are primarily assessed by formative means. We understand that not all children are working at the same level; therefore, tasks are scaffolded accordingly. Class teachers deliver an adapted curriculum to ensure that all children can access learning at a suitable and appropriate level. Class teachers also adapt planning to suit those with special educational needs and also to challenge individuals. All children are supported to ensure they achieve their potential.

The Geography subject leader keeps samples of the children's work in a portfolio which shows coverage and progression in each year of the school.

Some assessment strategies, which can be used in geography, are:

- STAR assessment questions
- Mind maps with pre and prior knowledge of the subject clearly stated.
- observing tasks
- listening to responses from questions
- assessment
- selecting examples of pupil's work

Some assessment opportunities, which can be used in geography, are:

- group work

- letter writing,
- art work,
- newspaper production,
- model making,
- book making,
- cartoons,
- report,
- presentation,
- poster making,
- display,
- interviews,
- map work,
- poetry writing,
- hypothesis testing,
- diagrammatic representations
- surveys
- multiple - choice questions
- computer work
- concept mapping
- use of key vocabulary

Our Statement of SMSC

At St Clare's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

Date:

Date of next review:

Chair of Governors: