



Statement of Intent Geography

Introduction

The aim of Geography teaching here at St Jude's is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding of their immediate location and develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant locations and the diverse culture in the world. The children gain a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding. Thus, they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and around the world. We make sure all children are given the same experiences no matter of their ability or background.

Intent

At St Jude's we believe that learning is a change in long term memory. We believe children learn best by having opportunities to revisit previous learning. Therefore, we teach geography termly, allowing children to build on their previous knowledge so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect and build on prior learning. Our long-term plan allows each class to develop their prior learning from the previous year.

We encourage them to understand and use a wide bank of Geographical vocabulary that helps them discuss their learning and explain their findings.

The objectives of teaching Geography in our school are:

- To develop contextual knowledge about diverse places, people, resources
- To develop a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes
- To understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture, and to study some aspects of European geography
- To be competent in the geographical skills needed to collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data
- To interpret a range of sources which show geographical information
- To communicate geographical information in a variety of ways including writing at length
- To gain experiences of fieldwork that deepen the children's experiences of geographical process.

Implementation

Our Geography curriculum design is based on principles derived from evidence through cognitive science:

- Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- Retrieval of previously learnt content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

Our content is subject specific. We make intra-curricular links to strengthen schemas.

Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are further promoted in Geography.

We keep up to date with all current changes in the curriculum by regular staff and cluster meetings, being members of the Geographical Association, use of quality published resources (including those published by Plan Bee) and our own personal reading and research with aids are planning and preparation for each unit of work.

All staff have the same expectations for the children. We make sure that all pupils are challenged and exposed to the same experiences and curriculum.

As well as learning the geographical skills required for their fieldwork; vocabulary, locations, descriptions and facts, the children will also learn key skills for life:

- Teamwork
- Focus on key vocabulary – using these words in context
- Safety related to land use
- Asking perceptive questions
- Critical thinking
- Research
- Collect and analyse data
- The use of learning journals to reinforce knowledge and things they have learnt

These techniques are repeated throughout the years, so that the children can build upon and refine their skills in each area. These skills are also transferable, meaning our children can apply them to other subject areas which will stand them in good stead later in life.

In the Early Year Foundation Stage, Geography makes a significant contribution to developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world, through activities such as looking at similarities and differences in relation to places and looking at features of their own immediate environment. This is enhanced further by outdoor learning, where children use their own curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them.

Throughout KS1 and KS2 children will have the opportunity to make links with other topics by using their knowledge of human features of Birmingham. In some studies, outdoor learning will be a pathway to teach from; - such as locational studies and identifying human and physical features.

In KS1 we will use our school grounds and surrounding areas to teach some of our studies and in KS2 we aim to investigate our wider location through fieldwork.

In addition to our Geography lessons, children are given the opportunity to participate in school trips off-site that will allow them to develop their fieldwork skills as well as their locational knowledge.

