



*Our Lady and St Philomena's Catholic Primary School*  
*Geography Policy*

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: September 2024
Last reviewed:	September 2024	
Next review due by:	September 2025	

## **RATIONALE**

The geography curriculum at Our Lady and St Philomena's is designed to instil a love for geography and to enable our pupils to set high aspirations for themselves in further education and in the world of work. We use the curriculum to embed a love of learning and for them to take an interest in a subject that can have an impact on their local, national and global community.

### **Curriculum Intent**

Geography is about understanding the world we live in. It helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world.

At Our Lady and St Philomena's Primary School, children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it. The geography curriculum enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferable to other curriculum areas. Geography is an investigative subject which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. Our intent when teaching geography is to inspire a curiosity and fascination of the world and the people within it; to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

### **Curriculum Implementation**

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability or additional needs to flourish to become the very best version of themselves and seeks to inspire a sense of curiosity about the world around us.

The Kapow Primary Scheme is used to plan and teach geography sessions; ensuring full coverage of content of the National Curriculum. Each session identifies clearly the skills and knowledge to be taught which enables progression, both throughout the year, as well as throughout the school.



It is important that children develop the skills of a geographer by fully immersing themselves in all areas of the subject. The local area is utilised wherever possible to achieve desired outcomes, with opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and embedded in practice. School trips and field work also provide first-hand experiences which enhance children's understanding of the world beyond their locality.

In addition to ensuring that geographical knowledge and skills are fully embedded and encompass cross curricular links.

The skills and knowledge referred to above are revisited throughout the sequencing and teaching of the geography curriculum so that pupils develop, build up and revisit this knowledge over time. Use of subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography is encouraged. Geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness are practised at every opportunity. Each lesson provides an opportunity to respond to the key question, but the overall topic is an ongoing enquiry as the pupils build a wealth of knowledge before responding to the topic specific enquiry.

### **Curriculum Impact**

The impact of the curriculum, or subject areas, is the outcomes for the pupils. It includes what the pupils say and do, their attitude towards their learning in the different curriculum areas, and how they use and apply the knowledge and skills they acquire.

By the time children leave Our Lady and St Philomena's they will:

- understand different locations around the world and their characteristics
- understand how human and physical environments are interrelated and the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected
- have a range of geographical knowledge and vocabulary
- have experience in geographical enquiry, including the ability to apply questioning and presentation skills
- can reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings
- be experienced in fieldwork and other geographical techniques
- have an interest in the subject and a sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there
- understand contemporary issues in society, including environmental awareness both in their own locality and worldwide

The impact of the geography curriculum at Our Lady and St Philomenas Primary School is assessed through subject specific monitoring and participation in the deep dive process.



Accompanying evidence is provided through pupil interviews, lesson visits, teachers questionnaires, learning walks and the analysis of data.

People who have studied geography at further education often find a career in the following areas of employment:

- town or transport planning;
- surveying;
- conservation;
- sustainability;
- waste and water management;
- environmental planning;
- tourism;
- weather forecasting;
- the armed services;
- police;
- government;
- research organisations;
- law;
- business.

## THE OBJECTIVES OF GEOGRAPHY

### Aims

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.



## **Early Years**

Geography is taught in reception 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 curriculum 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.

## **GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM PLANNING**

The geography curriculum is reviewed annually, through Kapow Geography topics are planned to ensure we meet at least national curriculum but also provide a broad and balanced curriculum with links to the local area. Teachers will adapt lessons to suit the needs of each cohort and will make as many links to our local area as possible.

Teachers will facilitate individual lessons to specific learning objectives and continue to revisit previous learning before moving on. The learning objectives are shared with the children explicitly both in lessons and using the foundation subject display board in classrooms. It is important that the children can see the journey of the learning throughout the topic.

Activities are planned to build on previous learning so as to give every pupil the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of history, make progress and face an increasing challenge in the subject as they move through year groups.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Teachers assess pupils by observing them during lessons and intervene to address misconceptions at the earliest opportunity. Our marking policy means teachers can 'walk the room' and work with individual students as the lesson progresses. At the end of each lesson teaching staff will make an assessment if that student has met the learning objective. This is tracked throughout the topic and used to inform the end of term assessment. Alongside this assessments linked to geography take place throughout the academic year, and children are assessed against age-related expectations by their class teacher. The results of these assessments are recorded and used to inform judgements linked to attainment and progress, and assessments linked to age related expectations are shared with parents/carers in the end of year report.

***This policy will be reviewed annually.***