

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Geography Policy

At St. Peter's Catholic School, we provide a Christ centred environment where each person's uniqueness is truly valued. We foster caring relationships based on mutual respect and nurture the partnership between home, school and family. We strive for excellence in all we do. When we welcome the child, we welcome the family.

Introduction

This policy outlines the learning, teaching, organisation and management of Geography at St Peter's Catholic School.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff. The responsibility for monitoring and review rests with the geography co-ordinator.

Aims

Through our teaching of Geography, we aim to:

- Stimulate children's enthusiasm for, and curiosity about their surroundings and the wider world.
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of the different communities and cultures within the school, Stalybridge, United Kingdom and the world - and how these relate to each other.
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of the changing world.
- Encourage children to ask questions and propose solutions to environmental problems within the school and the wider world.
- Develop children's competence in specific geographical skills (such as use of maps, secondary sources, ICT, aerial photographs, data logging equipment and considering evidence from a range of sources).
- Foster a sense of responsibility and respect for our school grounds, the earth, its people and its resources.

The Geography Curriculum

Geography is taught weekly in both KS1 and KS2, alternating half termly with History. Class teachers have the choice to teach Geography as a block unit of time during that half term. In Nursery and Reception classes, Geography is

taught as an integral part of the topic work covered through the specific area of 'Understanding the World'.

The National Curriculum is the basis of curriculum planning in Geography and consists of long and medium-term planning, with the medium-term planning being in sufficient detail to be used for delivering lessons. Cross curriculum links are made to Geography, with a focus on embedding literacy and numeracy into this curriculum area.

Strategies for the teaching of Geography

Learning and Teaching in Geography will be in line with the school's *Teaching and Learning Policy*, where provision is made for all learning styles. The Geography curriculum at St Peter's is designed to provide children with learning opportunities that reflect the breadth and balance of contexts outlined in the National Curriculum.

As an integral part of the teaching and learning of Geography, children will be given the opportunity to undertake purposeful fieldwork, communicating their findings in a variety of ways. We have well established field visits locally and further afield (Castleton and Llandudno).

We are very proud of our extensive school grounds and use these in a variety of ways to help children learn geographical skills and to respect the school grounds and wider environment.

Assessment

In KS1 and KS2 all children will record their work in Geography books. Photographs may also be kept as evidence in these books, on the 'School Photos' section of the school server and celebrated on our school website.

Displays of Geography work will be set up where appropriate to celebrate the children's achievements and to share topic vocabulary.

Children's progress and achievement in Geography is assessed through annotated planning and lesson outcomes. Children's achievement is recorded on school's end of unit topic sheets. At the end of each year children's achievement is used to inform statements to give an end of year judgement: below age related expectations, expected age related expectations or exceeding age-related expectations. Parents are given an attainment and effort grade for Geography at the end of the year.

Inclusion

In line with our Equalities scheme and *Inclusion Policy* we are committed to providing a teaching environment that encourages learning. All pupils are entitled to access the Geography curriculum at a level appropriate to their needs arising from race, gender, ability or disability, religion, social background and culture. Fieldwork may have to be adapted to take into account individual requirements.

Resources

We have a variety of teaching resources for Geography. Geography resources are allocated according to what themes are taught in each age group. Children will have the opportunity to use the following resources: globes, atlases, visual media (including aerial photographs), information books, maps, graphs, measuring equipment and ICT. These resources can be found in the tree house or in individual classrooms. We also subscribe to the online digital mapping website *Digimap for Schools*.

Monitoring and review

The role of the Geography co-ordinator is:

- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content and developing their skills in planning, teaching and assessing Geography
- Renew, update and oversee the audit of resources needed to deliver the curriculum
- Monitor and evaluate the learning and teaching of Geography
- Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity
- Keep abreast of developments in the teaching and learning of Geography.

Shawna Sibson
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