



St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

Geography Policy

"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us that it is more blessed to serve than to be served. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

With a reference to the National Curriculum, Geography should:

- ◆ stimulate interest in surroundings, at home, school and on visits to other places.
- ◆ foster a sense of wonder at the beauty and variety in the world, developing an appreciation of different societies and cultures.
- ◆ help to develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment, raising of rights and responsibilities.
- ◆ raising awareness of how values and attitudes influence changes to places and environment, which will aid children to develop their own values.
- ◆ Promote equal opportunities for all

Using the National Curriculum Geography skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge will be developed through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in order to:

- Extend the personal geography of each child through fieldwork, images, maps and videos of distant places, enabling them to understand and respect similarities and differences.
- Develop an understanding of some of the important characteristics, processes and effects of physical geography including landforms, weather and climate.
- Develop an understanding of why people live where they live, including the links between people, places and environments throughout the world.
- Develop an understanding of why changes are occurring as a result of natural events, peoples' activities and the use of resources.
- Enable the acquisition of techniques and development of the skills necessary for geographical

enquiry, including field work and map work.

Teaching and Learning Approaches

The teaching of Geography combines the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills, taught through practical and relevant experiences. The teaching approaches will include whole-class, group and individual work using a variety of mediums to accomplish this.

Planning

Geographical teaching should be based on key questions which are fundamental to children's learning about Geography and maintain a clear focus on the understanding of processes and skills.

In Key Stage 1 & 2 Geography will be taught in half-termly topics and/or subject specific blocks.

Long Term Plans show when topics and block teaching of the subject takes place throughout the year. This is available on the school's intranet.

Medium term plans are written by individual class teachers and are found on the school's intranet. They indicate key questions being answered by the topic, objectives, learning outcomes, pupil activities, and resources needed.

AEN & EAL

Planning acknowledges the needs of children with learning difficulties, the high achievers and children with EAL. Differentiation is evident in level of tasks, use of resources, through outcome and teacher/TA intervention.

PSHE/Community

Attitudes, values and issues are important aspects of Geography. Topics will raise awareness of other people's culture and beliefs as well as our own and will deal with issues, both local and global.

Fieldwork/Health & Safety

Fieldwork can be defined as active geographical learning outside the classroom. Children will use first hand experience within a variety of environments e.g. school grounds, local area and beyond. Some key questions raised will involve active fieldwork to resolve them.

Before any fieldwork takes place a risk assessment must be carried out and all staff to refer to the Health and Safety policy.

Resources

Geography resources can be found in St. Gertrude's staffroom or in classrooms where particular topics are taught in particular key stages.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

Assessment is based on learning outcomes, achievement of learning objectives and responses to key questions. It is an ongoing process which takes place over the whole of each Key Stage. Individual pupil performance, in Geography, is recorded at the end of each term and reported in the child's annual report. Each teacher is required to assess whether a child has made either; Exceeded progress - has learnt at greater depth using HLO's, Expected progress – achieved all LO's or Emergent progress – achieving **only some, not all** LO's. All results are kept in the class teacher's assessment folder and a copy is given to the Headteacher. The results and information collected on these termly subject reports is used to inform the parents of the child's overall achievement in the subject that year in the child's annual report.

Mrs S. Russell

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