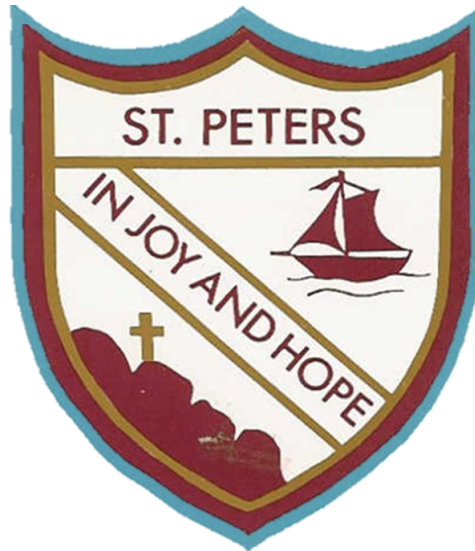


St Peter's Catholic Primary School



Geography Policy

Agreed by Governors _____

Chair of Governors _____

Reviewed annually

Intent

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School Primary School, we are GEOGRAPHERS! We want our children to love geography! We want them to have no limits to what their ambitions are and grow up wanting to be cartographers, town planners, conservationists or weather forecasters. Our aim is that, through the teaching of Geography at St Peter's Catholic Primary School, we provide a purposeful platform for exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved. We want to ensure that through Geography, pupils are able to explore the relationship between the Earth and its people through the study of place, space and environment. In Geography, pupils in our school will learn the skills of understanding locational knowledge; how and where people fit into its overall structure. We also intend for children to become passionate and knowledgeable about our local community and beyond, by learning through experiences in practical and fieldwork activities.

The aims of geography are:

- To enable children to gain knowledge and understanding of places in the world and compare them with their local area.
- 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 allow children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps;
- To enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- To encourage in children a commitment to sustainable development and an appreciation of what 'global citizenship' means;
- To develop a variety of other skills, including those of enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and how to present their conclusions in the most appropriate way.

Implementation

Geography is taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children achieve depth in their learning. The key knowledge and skills that children acquire and develop throughout each block have been mapped to ensure progression between year groups throughout the school. Topics are blocked to allow children to focus on developing their knowledge and skills, studying each topic in depth.

Our Geography curriculum with support from the Kapow Geography scheme is designed so that children will learn about 'themselves' and their local area before learning about the UK and the rest of the world. Location knowledge and map work are woven throughout all Geography topics. We are developing a progression of skills each year. In order to support children in their ability to know more and remember more, there are regular opportunities to review the learning that has taken place in previous topics as well as previous lessons.

A mind map (What I Know) is used to check existing knowledge at the beginning of each Geography topic and this process informs a program of study that is responsive to children's interests. Children will review previous learning and will have the opportunity to share what they already know about a current topic. Children are given a knowledge organiser at the start of each topic which details some key information, dates and vocabulary. This is not used as part of an assessment, but to support children with their acquisition of knowledge and used as a reference document. To support teaching, staff access a range of resources and planning Kapow Geography scheme and the Geography Association. Effective use of educational visits and visitors are planned to enhance and enrich the pupil's learning experiences within the Geography curriculum. Teachers use highly effective Assessment for Learning at different points in each lesson to ensure misconceptions are highlighted and addressed. Effective modelling by teachers ensures that children are able to achieve their learning intention, with misconceptions addressed within it.

Through using a range of assessment tools, differentiation is facilitated by teachers to ensure that each pupil can access the Geography curriculum. Children are given clear success criteria in order to achieve the Learning Intention with different elements of independence.

Pupils are regularly given the opportunity for Self or Peer Assessment, which will then be used to inform planning, preparation, differentiation and address misconceptions within the lesson, or for the next lesson.

Cross-curricular links are included throughout each unit, allowing children to make connections and apply their Geography skills to other areas of learning. Our enquiry questions form the basis for our Key stage 1 and 2 units, meaning that pupils gain a solid understanding of geographical knowledge and skills by applying them to answer enquiry questions. We have designed these questions to be open-ended with no preconceived answers and therefore they are genuinely purposeful and engage pupils in generating a real change. In attempting to answer them, children learn how to collect, interpret and represent data using geographical methodologies and make informed decisions by applying their geographical knowledge.

Each unit contains elements of geographical skills and fieldwork to ensure that fieldwork skills are practised as often as possible. Kapow Primary units follow an enquiry cycle that maps out the fieldwork process of question, observe, measure, record, and present, to reflect the elements mentioned in the National curriculum. This ensures children will learn how to decide on an area of enquiry, plan to measure data using a range of methods, capture the data and present it to a range of appropriate stakeholders in various formats.

Fieldwork includes smaller opportunities on the school grounds to larger-scale visits to investigate physical and human features. Developing fieldwork skills within the school environment and revisiting them in multiple units enables pupils to consolidate their understanding of various methods. It also gives children the confidence to evaluate methodologies without always having to leave the school grounds and do so within the confines of a familiar place. This makes fieldwork regular and accessible while giving children a thorough understanding of their locality, providing a solid foundation when comparing it with other places.

Lessons incorporate various teaching strategies from independent tasks to paired and group work, including practical hands-on, computer-based and collaborative tasks. This variety means that lessons are engaging and appeal to those with a variety of learning styles. Each lesson provides guidance for teachers on how to adapt their teaching to ensure that all pupils can access learning, and opportunities to stretch pupils' learning are also available if required. Knowledge organisers for each unit support pupils in building a foundation of factual knowledge by encouraging recall of key facts and vocabulary.

Strong subject knowledge is vital for staff to deliver a highly effective and robust Geography curriculum. Each unit of lessons includes multiple teacher videos to develop subject knowledge and support CPD. Our scheme has been chosen with the understanding that many teachers do not feel confident delivering the full Geography curriculum, and every effort has been made to ensure that they feel supported to deliver lessons of a high standard that ensure pupil progression.

Impact

An enquiry-based approach to learning will allow teachers to assess children against the National curriculum expectations for Geography. The impact of Kapow Primary's scheme can be constantly monitored through both formative and summative assessment opportunities. Each lesson includes guidance to support teachers in assessing pupils against the learning objectives. Furthermore, each unit has a unit quiz and knowledge catcher, which can be used at the start or end of the unit to assess children's understanding. Opportunities for children to present their findings using their geographical skills will also form part of the assessment process in each unit. After implementing Kapow Primary Geography, pupils should leave school equipped with a range of skills and knowledge to enable them to study Geography with confidence at Key stage 3. We hope to shape children into curious and inspired geographers with respect and appreciation for the world around them alongside an understanding of the interconnection between the human and the physical. The expected impact of following the Kapow Primary Geography scheme of work is that children will:

- Compare and contrast human and physical features to describe and understand similarities and differences between various places in the UK, Europe and the Americas.
- Name, locate and understand where and why the physical elements of our world are located and how they interact, including processes over time relating to climate, biomes, natural disasters and the water cycle.
- Understand how humans use the land for economic and trading purposes, including how the distribution of natural resources has shaped this.
- Develop an appreciation for how humans are impacted by and have evolved around the physical geography surrounding them and how humans have had an impact on the environment, both positive and negative.
- Develop a sense of location and place around the UK and some areas of the wider world using the eight-points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys on maps, globes, atlases, aerial photographs and digital mapping.
- Identify and understand how various elements of our globe create positioning, including latitude, longitude, the hemispheres, the tropics and how time zones work, including night and day.
- Present and answer their own geographical enquiries using planned and specifically chosen methodologies, collected data and digital technologies.
- Meet the 'Understanding the World' Early Learning Goals at the end of EYFS, and the end of key stage expectations outlined in the National curriculum for Geography by the end of Year 2 and Year 6.

The Early Years

Foundation Stage Curriculum supports children's understanding of geography, people and communities through the planning and teaching of 'Understanding the World'. Children learn about features of their own environment such as school, home, community and their city through first hand experiences and learn how environments may differ through the sharing of books, stories, poems, small world play, role play and visits. Children enjoy the valuable experiences gained from our regular trips to places within their local community such as the library, park and local shops. Children are given time to discuss, comment and ask questions about what they observe about the world around them and are encouraged to be active learners and explore their interests further.

Assessment

Assessment has two main purposes

- Assessment of learning (also known as summative assessment).
- Assessment for learning (also known as formative assessment).

Throughout each topic of learning, assessment will be evidenced through quizzing of key knowledge and through curriculum objectives recorded on FFT Aspire.

“Assessment for learning is the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where the learners are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there”.

At St Peter’s Catholic Primary School we recognise that AfL lies at the heart of promoting learning and raising standards of attainment.

Role of the Subject Leader

The subject leader is responsible for coordinating geography throughout the school. This includes:

- Ensuring continuity and progression from year group to year group through monitoring books and planning.
- Guiding colleagues with how geography should be taught.
- Advising on training needs and booking staff on appropriate courses.
- Assisting with buying and maintaining resources within the yearly budget.
- Assisting and supporting colleagues in the implementation and assessment of geography throughout the school.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To ensure progression in the acquisition of geographical skills with due regards to the National Curriculum for geography.
- To develop and update skills, knowledge and understanding of geography.
- To identify inset needs in geography and take advantage of training opportunities.
- To keep appropriate on-going records.
- To plan effectively for geography, liaising with coordinators where necessary.
- To inform parents of pupils’ progress, achievements and attainments.

Parental Involvement

At St Peter’s Primary School we encourage parents to be involved by:

- Inviting them into school twice yearly to discuss the progress of their child.
- Inviting parents into school in the summer term to discuss the yearly report.
- Having an ‘open door’ policy where parents are free to speak to class teachers’ either before or after school each day.