



## St Stephens Community Academy Geography Policy



Geography teaching in the primary phase is about developing an understanding of our world, through experience, investigation and learning from secondary sources. Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places. This will help to enable children to take responsibility for their role in society and to develop a caring attitude towards others, animals and plants in our environment.

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people who live in them. Children study their local area and contrasting places in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. The study of the local area forms an important part of the geography taught at our school and activities are planned to build upon the children's knowledge and understanding of the local area.

### **Aims**

Through our teaching of geography we aim to:

- develop children's geographical understanding and competence in specific geographical skills;
- help children acquire and develop the skills and confidence to undertake, investigation, problem solving and decision making;
- stimulate the children's interest in and curiosity about their surroundings;
- create and foster a sense of wonder about the world;
- inspire a sense of responsibility for the environments and people of the world we live in;
- increase the children's knowledge and awareness of our changing world, so that they will want to look after the Earth and its resources and think about how it can be improved and sustained;
- begin to develop respect for, and an interest in, people throughout the world regardless of culture, race and religion;
- develop a sense of identity by learning about the United Kingdom and its relationship with other countries.

### **We also hope to:**

- improve pupils' skills across the curriculum, especially in Literacy, Numeracy and computing.
- develop thinking skills
- develop pupils as active citizens
- promote awareness and understanding of spiritual and moral issues.

### **Entitlement:**

Geography is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. The fundamental knowledge, skills and understanding of the subject are set out in the National Curriculum programmes of study. All pupils are entitled to access the geography curriculum at a level appropriate to their needs arising from race, gender, ability or disability. Fieldwork may have to be adapted to individual requirements.

### **Expectations:**

#### **During the Foundation Stage:**

Children in Foundation 1 (Nursery) and 2 (Reception) will work towards the geographical aspects of the Early Learning goals for Knowledge and Understanding of the world.

**By the end of Key Stage 1, most children will be expected to:**

- describe the main features of localities and recognise their similarities and differences;
- recognise where things are and why they are as they are;
- recognise changes in the environment of localities and how people affect the environment;
- find out and express views about people, places and environments by asking and answering questions and by using their own observations and other geographical skills and resources;

**By the end of Key Stage 2, most children will be expected to:**

- explain the physical and human characteristics of places and their similarities and differences, and know the location of significant places and environments in the UK, Europe and the World;
- explain patterns of physical and human features, and recognise how selected physical and human processes cause changes in the character of places and environments;
- describe how people can damage and improve the environment and recognise how and why people may seek to manage environments sustainably;
- undertake geographical enquiry by asking and responding to questions, identifying and explaining different views and using a range of geographical skills, resources and their own observations.

**Programmes of Study:**

Geography is a National Curriculum foundation subject with designated programmes of study.

The programmes of study for both Key Stage 1 and 2 are based on:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge;
- Human and Physical geography;
- Geographical skills and fieldwork.

Teaching should ensure that geographical enquiry skills are used when developing knowledge and understanding of places, patterns and processes, and environmental change and sustainable development.

**Teaching and learning style:**

Children are taught in their normal class group for geography and classroom organisation will depend on the needs and abilities of the pupils and also on the aims of the lesson. In planning geographical work teachers are mindful of the ways in which pupils learn. The teaching of geography reflects different teaching and learning styles to ensure full inclusion such as whole-class lessons, group, paired and individual work and we combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We encourage children to ask as well as answer geographical questions.

**Planning**

In our school we plan Geography as part of our whole school curriculum and the aims and objectives are covered presently through termly topics in our long term plan, as well as special themed activities such as trips to areas of local interest as well as global awareness.

Medium term planning is laid out for each class year groups. Learning activities should be sequenced to ensure progression and continuity throughout the school following our skills progression documents.

**Assessment for learning:**

Children demonstrate their ability in geography in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work through a combination of formal and informal tasks, by making informal judgements

during lesson, discussions, question and answer techniques and observation. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work by marking and commenting as necessary and uses this information to plan future learning. Written or verbal feedback is given to the child to help guide his or her progress. Children are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work and edit where appropriate.

### **Monitoring, evaluation, and professional development**

Monitoring activities undertaken by the subject lead for Geography are planned across the year and can include the following:

- staff meetings to analyse samples of pupils' work in Geography to moderate standards to ensure consistency and to inform colleagues of subject developments at local and national levels;
- lesson observations to ensure that learning and teaching is appropriately engaging and challenging, and that appropriate progress is being made by all pupils;
- the sampling of pupils' work to ensure that expectations in terms of subject standards are being maintained through the curriculum;
- meetings and discussions with pupils from across year groups.

An important outcome of this ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be the identification of professional development needs amongst colleagues. The subject lead will, in the context of whole school priorities seek to address these through engaging appropriate external and internal support.

The subject lead uses the intelligence gained from monitoring and evaluation provision to update the three-year Geography Subject Development Plan and inform the priorities for the annual Action Plan for Geography.

### **Resources:**

Resources form an important part of curriculum delivery. Access to resources is sometimes a determining factor in classroom organisation. As part of their geographical work, all pupils have opportunities to use ICT and a variety of data, such as maps, statistics and graphs where this serves to enhance their learning.

They also have opportunities to use the following resources: globes, maps, atlases, pictures, photographs, aerial photographs, compasses, measuring equipment, cameras, books and games.

### **Equality Statement:**

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone. We value the diversity of individuals within the school and beyond, and do not discriminate. Learning to live and work together, and respect each other is encouraged throughout the school.

### **S.E.N.D**

As an inclusive school, all pupils will be involved in all aspects of the geography curriculum. Work will be differentiated appropriately and, where necessary the child may have the support of an LSA or classroom helper. Everything should be done to avoid highlighting the disabilities of a particular child. Support may be especially necessary during field study activities.

### **Health and Safety**

Before any field study, a risk assessment will be carried out and submitted in accordance with the school's outdoor education policy and Education Authorities guidelines.

**This policy will be reviewed annually.**