



St Barnabas CE Primary School

"Preparing for a positive future, achieved through faith."
Christian values are central to the life of our school, where we are devoted to inspire our children to succeed, flourish and live life in all its fullness.

"Let your light shine."
Matthew 5:16

Geography Policy

Policy Updated:	September 2023
Date reviewed and agreed by Governors:	
Date of next review:	September 2024
Headteacher:	Miss J Hodgkinson
Chair of Governors:	Mr C Kressel

Geography Policy

Our school policies reflect St Barnabas' commitment to an inclusive, creative and exciting curriculum, based around high quality teaching and learning.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

Our high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching will equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

At St Barnabas, we want to foster children's understanding of the world we live in, closely linking events and ideas to some of our Christian values of peace and compassion with others, justice for all, and looking at how significant people have let their light shine, as well as encouraging our children to let their own light shine.

AIMS

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The focus of our geography teaching is to focus on developing the following knowledge and skills:

- Understanding and building locational and place knowledge
- Understanding human and physical geography
- Using geographical skills and taking part in fieldwork
- Understanding and explaining Earth's features and how Earth has changed over time.

Children will apply these skills in a range of different context and, over time, develop a more sophisticated and in-depth understanding of each of the strands.

Teaching Geography at St Barnabas is taught through a rigorous programme, Curriculum Maestro, that has been well sequenced through carefully chosen topics, ensuring all National Curriculum objectives are met. In KS1, pupils are taught the following topics to ensure they achieve the above skills:

- Year 1 - Bright lights & Big Cities – focusing on London
- Year 2 - Coastline – focusing on Whitby beach, linking to a beach in our local area to allow the children to compare and contrast

In KS2, pupils are taught the following topics to ensure they also achieve the above skills:

- Year 3 – Rocks, Relics and Rumbles – focusing on the Earth's structure; volcanoes, tectonic plates
- Year 4 – Misty Mountains, Winding River – focusing on rivers and mountain ranges; processes that shape them and the land around them
- Year 5 – Sow, Grow and Farm – focusing on agriculture across the world; the land use and environmental areas
- Year 6 – Frozen Kingdom – focusing on North and South Poles; the environmental factors that change and shape the land

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

When and where appropriate, opportunities will be encouraged to promote geographical learning across the curriculum. This could be through links with:

- Talk for Writing - report writing, persuasive writing, speaking & listening, drama activities
- History – locating countries within their topics
- Computing – using research tools, using apps, word-processing
- Science – animals, humans, plants
- Art – landscapes

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Assessment of Geography at both KS1 and KS2 will be completed using an assessment tool on Curriculum Maestro. All teachers are able to assess their taught lesson there and then, selecting whether pupils have achieved the learning objectives for that lesson, partially achieved, not achieved, or have not been taught this due to absence. Progress will be measured against their achieved objectives each half term, which will allow for monitoring of progress within and across year groups. Teacher judgment also plays a part in assessment; through the use of quadrant grids, low-stake quizzes, knowledge organiser questionnaires and questioning, all strategies help to monitor pupils' progress to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their learning.

SUBJECT LEADER ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

The subject leader works alongside the SLT to monitor standards of teaching and learning at St Barnabas. A structured cycle of planning and work scrutiny, observations/drop ins, and pupil voice help to provide information to judge the effectiveness of the subject as well as allowing the subject leader to analyse internal data to ensure our children are making sustained or better progress and to look at future development points. Subject leaders also report to Governors to feedback and review Geography within our school.