

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



## Geography Policy

### Introduction

The Mission for St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is

*"to ensure a loving and faithful learning community in which our children can become the person God created them to be. A community where we celebrate the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual. Where we grow and learn together with joy, in the love of Jesus. In this love, we strive to be courageous stewards of creation."*

Rooted in scripture

*I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full*

John 10:10

Therefore, the development and implementation of our Geography policy supports us in achieving our mission and in providing the appropriate provision for all the children in our care. At the beginning of every geography unit, the teacher will discuss the Gospel Values which are going to be focused on in this unit. The teacher will refer to these values throughout the unit and ask the children to reflect on what it means for us at the end of the unit.

### Rationale

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Geography provides a focus within the curriculum for understanding and resolving the issues concerning the environment and sustainable development. Geography allows pupils to encounter different societies and cultures leading them to realise how nations rely on each other.

Through Geography, we can encourage pupils to think about their own place in the world, their values and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment.

### Aims and Objectives

We aim to give our children a high-quality geography education to generate awe and wonder about the world and its people. They will enjoy learning

about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments. 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.

It is our intention to:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places –including their defining physical and human characteristics
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world
- 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.

### **The Role of the Geography Co-ordinator is:**

- Taking the lead in the development, evaluation and amendment of schemes of work as and when necessary
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues on resources, visits, visitors, curriculum changes, classroom teaching and learning ideas
- Monitoring and evaluating pupils' work, pupils' views about the subject, displays and teachers' planning
- Writing School development plan
- Auditing resources and ordering resources when needed
- Keeping up to date with developments in Geography and disseminating information to the rest of the teaching staff
- Leading staff meetings as appropriate
- Attending relevant in-service training and prompting others about relevant training

### **Teaching and Learning Style**

At St Bernadette's School, we use a range of teaching and learning styles in our Geography lessons. These include but are not limited to:

- teacher guided sessions, where information is provided
- children may undertake independent Geographical research using a range of sources to develop their own knowledge and understanding
- mixed ability group work where the children discuss problems in small groups
- class discussion lessons where members are encouraged to join in with their personal opinions
- the use of differentiated tasks allowing children of different ability levels to work at their appropriate pace
- the use of audio visual aids in presenting material to the children
- the use of fieldwork so that children gain first hand experience of local and contrasting environments
- the integrated use of ICT within Geography lessons

The teaching of Geography is taught in block units throughout the year and locational knowledge regularly throughout the year.

We recognise the fact that there are children of widely different geographical abilities in all classes and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty
- providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the child

### **Geography curriculum planning**

We plan the topics in Geography so that they build upon prior learning. Children of all abilities have the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and through planned progression built into the scheme of work, we offer them an increasing challenge as they move up the school.

## **Geography Subject Knowledge**

### **The Foundation Stage**

We teach Geography in the Reception Class as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the Reception Class is part of the Early Years Curriculum Framework, we relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in EYFS which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Geography makes a significant contribution to developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world around them and in achieving the ELG in this area of development.

### **Key stage 1**

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness. Pupils should be taught to:

#### **Location knowledge**

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

#### **Place knowledge**

- understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

#### **Human and physical geography**

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles
- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:
- key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather
- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

### **Geographical skills and fieldwork**

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage
- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language (e.g. near and far; left and right) to describe the location of features and routes on a map
- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

## **Key stage 2**

Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical tools and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge. Pupils should be taught to:

### **Location knowledge**

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

### **Place knowledge**

- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

### **Human and physical geography**

- describe and understand key aspects of:
- physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

### **Geographical skills and fieldwork**

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

## **The Contribution of Geography to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas**

### **English**

Geography makes a significant contribution to the teaching of English in our school because it actively promotes the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. We ensure that some of the texts that we use in the literacy are geographical in nature. At Key Stage 2, we debate environmental issues through our teaching and because we believe that these develop speaking and listening skills. We also use environmental issues as a way of developing the children's writing ability by asking them to record information and write reports and letters.

### **Mathematics**

Geography in our school contributes to the teaching of Mathematics in a variety of ways. The children study space, scale and distance and they learn how to use four and six figure grid references. They also use graphs to explore, analyse and illustrate a variety of data.

### **ICT**

We make provision for the children to use the computer in Geography lessons, where appropriate. We incorporate ICT in our Geography curriculum planning, using the Digimaps For Schools Programme and Google Earth. The children use ICT in Geography to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work. They can research information through the Internet and communicate with other pupils in other schools and countries by e-mail. Children have the opportunity to use a digital camera to record and use photographic images.

### **Assessment**

Children's progress should be monitored through observation and by using learning objectives and moderation of work. At the end of the school year, each teacher submits end of year group evaluations in Geography against National Curriculum year group expectations. This includes the overall evaluation of the standards in each year group and the evaluation of sub groups such as boys, girls and Pupil Premium. Reports to parents are completed at the end of the academic year when indications are made as to the individual's progress in this area of the curriculum.

This enables the subject leader to have a full understanding of the standards in Geography throughout the school and the information needed to support further subject development.

## **Marking**

Feedback to pupils should be provided on their attainment against the objectives of history. Pupils are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school feedback policy.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Geography Co-ordinator will monitor geography books and schemes of work to ensure that the Programmes of Study are being effectively taught and match the needs and abilities of the pupils.

The subject leader supports colleagues in the teaching of Geography, by giving them information about current developments in the subject and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The subject leader is also responsible for evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicating areas for improvement to be shared with governors and included in the School Improvement Plan.

## **Inclusion**

### **Equal Opportunities**

- We plan our classroom activities to challenge and involve all pupils appropriately, according to age and capability, ethnic diversity, gender and language background
- We are aware of different learning styles and the need to allow pupils to be able to work in their preferred learning styles for some of the time
- We use materials for teaching which avoid stereo-typing, and bias, towards race, gender, role or disability
- We deal with such issues clearly and sensitively when they arise

## **Differentiation**

At our school we teach geography to all children, whatever their ability. History forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our geography teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels. We use a range of strategies to support pupils.

### **For our gifted and talented pupils we will expect:**

- Teachers to provide teaching and learning experiences that encourage pupils to think creatively, explore and develop ideas, and try different approaches.



- Greater independence in working
- Provide real-life research and presentation opportunities
- Avoid giving gifted pupils additional writing tasks and encourage them instead to communicate their understanding in a variety of ways, giving them responsibility for choosing and evaluating the most appropriate method.

The Geography subject leader and the Head teacher are responsible for the monitoring and review of this policy. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Signed: ..... (Head teacher)

Signed: ..... (For and on behalf of the Governing Body)

Date: .....