
Geography

How are we supposed to understand current events if we don't know Geography?

'The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And, in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.' Barack Obama



Intent

At St. Augustine's, our Geography curriculum is designed to develop children's curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Children investigate a range of places – both locally and globally – to help develop their knowledge and understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. We are committed to providing the children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about the local area so that they can develop a real sense of who they are, their heritage and what makes our local area unique and special. This also promotes their sense of agency and allows them to make links between their geography knowledge and how they can apply this in the wider world.

We are also developing the children's ability to apply geographical skills to enable them to confidently communicate their findings.

We firmly believe that geography is best learnt 'through the soles of their feet,' so trips and fieldwork opportunities are key to nourishing their geographical understanding and enjoyment.

We are also preparing pupils for the world outside of the classroom and to do this, we need to ensure that they are empathetic, sustainable, problem solvers and decision makers. Their geography education will provide pupils with many opportunities to develop these values and attributes.



Implementation

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Geography is explicitly taught as part of termly topics, focusing on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. At St. Augustine's, we ensure that geography is taught regularly, as we feel this is important in enabling all children to gain 'real-life' experiences and also allows them to continue to remember and apply their learning.

The geography curriculum provides a broad framework and outlines the knowledge and skills taught in each Key Stage. Teachers plan lessons for their class using our 'Composites and Components' document which outlines what children will achieve by the end of each academic year.



When teaching geography, the teachers follow the children's interests to ensure their learning is engaging, broad and balanced. Before each term, the children come up with their own enquiry questions and teacher's then use these as a focus to steer the learning. The Composites and Components document ensures the curriculum is covered and the knowledge taught is progressive from year group to year group.

Geography teaching focuses on enabling children to think as geographers. Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction are used alongside a variety of teaching approaches to ensure that children engage with their learning, remember what they have learned and then apply their learning to a variety of situations.

Geography provides excellent opportunities to enhance the learning of all pupils through the use of the enquiry cycle and fieldwork opportunities where children can apply their knowledge to answer questions and solve issues in their local area and beyond. The children explore the local area including orienteering within the school grounds and conducting studies in our forest classroom. Local museums also provide an opportunity to enhance geography learning, as well as trips to local woods, beaches and

using map reading skills during residential trips. These experiences all make the learning more meaningful for the pupils. In turn, this supports their personal development as empathetic and sustainable citizens who recognise their impact upon the world as well as, the worlds impact upon themselves.



Impact

Within geography, we strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry based learning opportunities. Emphasis is placed on investigative learning opportunities to help children gain a deep understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Assessing children's understanding of topic linked vocabulary before and after the unit is taught.
- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Images and videos of the children's practical learning.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Moderation staff meetings where pupil's books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.
- Marking of written work in books.