



**God shines within our hearts
Jesus walks by our side
The Holy Spirit gives us strength**

Geography Curriculum Intent

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. We want our children to explore, learn and remember facts, so new knowledge is built through enquiry, debate and creativity to create citizens who will question the World in which we live and hopefully make changes in the future to make our World a better place.

Children investigate a range of places, both in Britain and across the Globe, to cultivate their knowledge and understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area of New Mills and the surrounding areas so that they can develop a sense of who they are, their heritage and what makes our local area unique and special. We also develop the children's ability to apply geographical skills to enable them to confidently communicate their findings and geographical understanding to a range of audiences. As a Catholic School we are also committed to helping others outside our school which includes assisting charities such as local homeless shelters, CAFOD links with Bushwanga school and the Live Simply award. This, subsequently, has also given the children a hands-on insight into the national housing shortages, the impact the weather can have on people and a deeper understanding in how to use our plants resources efficiently to assist all.

Through high quality teaching, we develop the following essential characteristics of geographers:

- An excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like, both in Britain and the wider world;
- A comprehensive understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected;
- An extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary;
- Fluency in complex, geographical enquiry and the ability to apply questioning skills, as well as effective presentation techniques;
- The ability to reach clear conclusions and explain their findings;
- Excellent fieldwork skills as well as other geographical aptitudes and techniques;
- The ability to express well -balanced opinions, rooted in deep knowledge and understanding about current issues in society and the environment;
- A genuine interest in the subject and a real sense of curiosity about the world and the people who live here.

Implementation

Our creative curriculum has been overhauled across the whole school and within each year group to ensure that children are taught to greater depth in each of our core subjects. Knowledge mats are provided to parents and children at the start of each topic and include key vocabulary, sticky information, books which supplement learning as well as possible discussion topics which can be used at home.



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Progressions of skills/knowledge grids are available to all teachers and previous knowledge through rocket recaps are planned for within a new topic. Children will also be challenged to apply their learning in a philosophical/open matter using collapsed curriculum days and trips/visits from experts will enhance the whole learning experience. We have also overhauled the assessment within geography using a four-tier numbered system. Using the National curriculum objectives as our base and then personalising other objectives within our assessment grids has enabled us to ensure all children can demonstrate their learning, whether this is orally or in a written format.

Impact

At St Mary's we ensure that all students are exposed to rich learning experiences both in and out of the classroom that aim to;

- Overcome the vocabulary deficit by exposing students to consistent progressive vocabulary and ensuring the understanding of words in context (Vocab umbrellas within the class)
- Develop the use of geographical language and vocabulary through oracy
- Promote collaboration and developing a general sense of enquiry, which encourages children to question and make suggestions
- Build on our students' natural curiosity and develop a geographical awareness of their surroundings but also what is in their wider world
- To take pride in their natural surroundings and ensure that they do their best to keep it clean and eco-friendly wherever possible (i.e. litter picking or walk to school)
- Make links between geography and other subjects
- Create a culture of high aspirations which will allow our students a platform to learn about careers related to geography and the wider community with specialist skills and knowledge, ensuring that they are well prepared for the next steps in their education
- Instil and understand the values of our society and how we can protect our environment and world for years to come.
- Understand the impact we can have internationally through global learning and CAFOD – live simply award

Our geography curriculum is high quality, well thought out, planned to demonstrate progression, engaging, promotes metacognition and is creative. Children will use these skills and knowledge to embed their understanding of geography.



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