

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School



We aspire that through the love of Jesus everyone should

“have life and have it to the full.”

Jn. 10v10

GEOGRAPHY POLICY

Approved by:	Date:
Last reviewed on:	Date:
Next review date:	

Intent

The aim of geography at Our Lady's R.C. Primary school is to teach an understanding of places and environments. Geography helps children to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world. By studying their local environment and other areas, children learn about people and places and the relationships between them. They come to understand the physical and human processes and patterns present in these environments, and they can learn to appreciate the similarities and differences between places and people. The geography topics taught at Our Lady's build upon prior learning and offer increasing challenge to children as they move up the school.

Implementation

Our Curriculum is a continually evolving blend of learning experiences, designed to develop the fundamental skills, which children need to succeed. The Geography curriculum is aimed to be relevant, interesting and engaging. A broad, balanced and relevant skills based education is offered to all the pupils, providing a wide range of experiences to meet their personalised needs. Geography is taught through a cross-curricular approach where it enhances learning or as a discrete subject.

This Year we enjoyed a fantastic skills based Geography week. The children had an opportunity to share their work with the rest of the school and parents.

The Curriculum

At Our Lady's RC School the geography curriculum enhances the teaching of other subjects, promoting reading and writing skills in literacy, contributing to children's mathematical understanding of space, scale and distance and also analysing data. Geography contributes significantly to the teaching of PSHE and citizenship and matters of social welfare such as how environments have changed for better or worse. Outdoor Forest School lessons always have a geographical content to them.

Foundation Stage

The aim of geography at Our Lady's Primary School is to teach an understanding of places and environments. Geography helps children to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world. By studying their local environment and other areas, children learn about people and places and the relationships between them. They come to understand the physical and human processes and patterns present in these environments, and they can learn to appreciate the similarities and differences between places and people.

Key Stage 1

During key stage 1 the children develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and will begin to work on the following geographical skills,

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 [for example, 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

In key stage 2 the children extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This includes the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge, with the following;

- 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, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies

Inclusion

All pupils, regardless of race or gender, shall have the opportunity to develop their geographical capability. The school promotes equal opportunities and fairness of distribution of all resources.

Impact

Geography's role at Our Lady's lies in helping children to understand the world, its environments and places near and far, and the processes that create and affect them. Children will be able to appreciate how the world works and make connections between concepts such as scale, community, cultural diversity and sustainability. The teaching of skills will enable them to apply their expertise in a range of independent situations whereby they have the chance to show what they have learnt in a fieldwork situation.

Topic Week: In the autumn term of 2019, we planned our first Geography week. Focusing on the teaching of skills and based on our local area 'Herefordshire'. This allowed us to create a more exciting creative curriculum. The children were able to carry out field studies that seemed to really interest all our learners. The week was a great success. More Geography weeks are being planned for the future.

Assessment and Recording

Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. The teacher assesses the children's progress based on their achievement of the learning objectives in lessons. Work is marked in line with the school policy on marking. Feedback is given to the children as soon as possible, and the school's Marking Policy guides marking work. Each Year group will have a target book based upon the National Curriculum.

Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out by the head teacher, a member of the senior management team or the geography coordinator, in the following ways:

- Informal discussion with staff and pupils
- Work sampling, moderation and book trawls, linked to planning.
- Classroom observation
- Pupil voice