Geography at St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

Excellence in education, kindness in the community, courage through faith.

Intent:
At St Jude's Schools Federation, we intend for all children to experience a broad, aspirational, relevant and rich Geography curriculum which gives them a thirst to find out more about the world and its peoples. Throughout their time at school, children will have the opportunity to learn about our locality and about a variety of globally significant places. They will be able develop a deeper understanding of their local area and their place in the world, and to compare this to other worldwide and UK places. They will conduct fieldwork, gather and interpret data and immerse themselves in learning about the world through engaging lessons and fieldwork. Children should leave St Jude's not only with a secure geographical knowledge base but also with a range of procedural skills that will support them in their further studies and everyday life.

Implementation:
Across KS1 and KS2, we use Cornerstones to support the teaching of Geography through a project-based approach. The EYFS curriculum has been designed to provide the necessary skills and vocabulary for subject specific learning in Key Stage 1 which follows the knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum 2014. The projects have been carefully planned to ensure National Curriculum coverage which ensures retrieval of core skills and knowledge each year, as well as allowing for children to build upon and extend their disciplinary skills and knowledge, year on year.

During KS1 and KS2, Geography is primarily taught as part of a termly project in the Autumn and Spring terms. To add depth to our Geography study, texts within our English lessons, where possible, compliment the location or concept being studied. In addition, some Art, DT and Science units take inspiration from the Geography topic being studied (each with their subject-specific learning intentions and skills progression). For example, in KS1, the projects Weather quest (Science) is taught alongside the Year One topic Bright Lights, Big City to connect with children's understanding of seasons, weather and using weather symbols. In KS2, the English visual text, 'The Windmill Farmer' and related Science lessons of plant reproduction and seasonality are taught alongside the main topic of 'Sow, Grow and Farm.'

Our project-based curriculum is designed to help children make meaningful links; deepen their understanding of locality and natural processes, and ensure they remember more in the long term.

Where possible, each project starts with a 'wow launch' hooking children in with a memorable experience - this is the '**engage**'. The idea of the launch is to set the scene for learning and provide a context for the children, provoking curiosity and interest. The '**Develop**' stage allows for core teaching over a 5-6 week period, teaching for knowledge, depth and understanding. Opportunities will be created for making and doing, enabling imaginative scenarios that foster creative thinking, whilst allowing the children to develop new skills. **'Innovate'** tasks will then encourage enterprise and independent ideas, putting into practice what has been learned. Finally, the learning is often shared with parents, where appropriate, as part of '**Express**'. This may be through a Sharing Morning, Class assembly or Exhibition. In addition, children complete a quiz which draws together all that has been learned. Teachers use this assessment information to plan in a cycle of retrieval learning over the following months, as well as making adaptations for next year's learning.

In the EYFS, we provide children with the opportunity to consider their own place in the world and compare the UK to other countries. Through play, they are introduced to a wide range of maps, floor plans, digital maps and aerial photographs. They are also introduced to fieldwork through planned trips around the school grounds and the local area where they practice the skills of careful observation, data collection and making sketch maps.

In KS1, the children are introduced to key geographical terms each year as they study the physical and human features of our school and of the local area. They learn to identify the countries of the UK on a map and are introduced to using compass points. They also learn about the equator and poles and how these relate to hot, cold and temperate climates. Children build on their local knowledge to compare Englefield

Green to other locations. They develop their geographical skills through further opportunities to conduct local fieldwork and to interpret and draw a range of more complex maps.

In KS2, the knowledge and skills that have been learned in KS1 are developed further. Children will continue to expand their use of key geographical terms and human and physical features of not just their local area but of places around the World. Their map skills develop and they learn to use grid references for location. They learn more about mountains, rivers and volcanoes and how humans can affect environments. They will learn about transport links and sustainability.

Impact:

Children at St Jude's are enthusiastic about Geography and are curious to know more about the world. This is demonstrated through the work presented, displays seen around the school, excitement in the lessons, learning in books and pupil voice. Children are able to make comparisons between their local area and the wider world. They understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features and how these change over time. They also begin to develop an understanding of how human activity has impacted and continues to impact our world.

Curriculum Aims

Our pupils develop a secure sense of their place in the world and of the geography of the local area. They study other geographically significant places in depth and develop understanding of their human and physical features. They consider the processes that give rise to geographical features and how these change over time through natural and human activity. Our pupils will have opportunities to collect, analyse and interpret a range of data and to present their findings orally, through written work and via sketch maps. They examine a wide range of maps, atlases, globes, digital maps and aerial photographs.

Locational Knowledge

Our pupils learn about the place where they live. They know the names and locations of the countries of the UK, and of the world's continents and oceans. They build their geographical vocabulary and use disciplinary terminology confidentially and accurately. They 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. Our pupils develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Place Knowledge

Within KS1, our pupils compare the human and physical features in Englefield Green with contrasting areas in the world. Thisis also reinforned in our International Week held in July. They gradually expand on their geographical vocabulary to accurately and precisely describe human and physical features. Within KS2, they investigate regions affected by earthquakes and volcanoes and they compare the Polar Regions.

Human and Physical Geography

Our pupils learn about the seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK in relation to the Equator and North and South poles. Within KS2 they develop their understanding of physical and human geography and revisit this throughout their KS2 journey.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

Our pupils are introduced to using observational skills to carry out fieldwork and collect data. They learn to use and interpret a range of globes, atlases and maps and to use keys, compass points and positional language. Using digimaps and ordnance survey maps, our children build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the World. Fieldwork happens in various locations round the village and along the River Thames. In KS2 children may visit a river taking measurements and samples to explore width, depth and low rate. They may also look at the different types of settlements within the local area.