



Geography at St Columba's Catholic Primary

Intent

At St Columba's, we aim to provide a high-quality geography education so that our children gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of a sense of place. We strive to cultivate an interest within our children about how their own location of North East England fits into the wider world. It is important that the children develop a sense of the difference between the identity and culture of other locations, both within the UK and worldwide.

In teaching children how to understand the physical and human differences around the world, we aim to deliver an enquiry based curriculum. In doing so, we encourage children to ask perceptive questions, think critically, examine physical and human evidence and develop their individual judgements.

Our aim is for all children at St Columba's to:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the physical and human differences around the world through an enquiry-based approach.
- Have an appreciation of their own location through visits, maps and internet based enquiry.
- Explore similarities and differences between different areas, countries and continents using evidence of physical and human influences
- Understand how the difference in physical geography influences the human activities and use of land and resources.
- To understand how the difference in the availability of resources affects the life chances and choices of the population in a particular area

Implementation

At St Columba's we teach Geography as a blocked unit, once a term. This is offset with blocked units for History, Art and Design, Design and Technology. Our rationale for this is to allow children to engage fully with a subject or topic over a concentrated block of time. Our designated Geography lessons are reserved for teaching appropriate geographical skills. However, we strongly believe that our children learn best when they become immersed in a topic, so we make cross curricular links in lessons such as English, Science or Art and Design, where appropriate. Recommended fiction and non-fiction books are included in our planning to promote reading across the wider curriculum.

We have developed an enquiry based curriculum for Geography. Each geographical study has an overarching question and each planned lesson has a focussed question which is designed to be answered within a session. Our lesson sequences build to an assessment task which draws together children's learning over the study and refers back to the original line of enquiry. This assessment task helps the teacher to make an overall judgement based on a child's knowledge and skills over the study.

Individual teachers plan their lessons creatively, using the lesson sequences and lines of enquiry outlined on each topic's knowledge organiser. These knowledge organisers have been developed using the National Curriculum and Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust. Our geographical studies are clearly sequenced for

progression and incorporate the key knowledge children need to obtain. Enquiries are taught using a range of resources. Building on higher order, subject specific vocabulary has underpinned our knowledge organisers and lesson sequences.

We have taken into consideration our children's backgrounds and experiences as well as our own local resources. In doing so, we hope to make tangible links so that our children can engage fully with a geographical study and create a relevant learning experience. This is achieved through making local links with a variety of settings that enhance children's curiosity through firsthand experiences (trips and visitors) and delivering a diverse curriculum, full of opportunities to learn about the development of use of available resources within a location.

Our curriculum at St Columba's is structured in the following way:

- In EYFS, our children develop a curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the wider world and aim to secure an understanding of geographical language and vocabulary. These foundations prepare them for the KSI curriculum.
- In KSI, pupils learn about the use of maps and geographical vocabulary associated with routes and map features. They identify seasons and weather patterns. They move on to use these skills to study their local area, identifying human and physical features. They begin to compare the similarities and differences between two locations.
- In LKS2 pupils learn about the physical and human features of the UK, Europe and South America. They develop their geographical vocabulary through describing, comparing and contrasting features of regions using maps, atlases, globes and digital information.
- They develop their understanding of the natural resources of the world through the Water Cycle and food and mineral resources. They begin to understand that resources are not shared equally across the world and that this has an impact on trade and wealth. They study mountains and rivers to enable them to explain how physical features change over time.
- In UKS2 they develop their geographical fieldwork skills using directions and 6 figure grid references to build up a wider picture of the UK, moving on to longitude and latitude to describe global locations, climate and time zones. They learn to describe key aspects of resources, especially energy and understand the economic activity of different regions.
- They learn about the natural hazards of the world, such as volcanoes and earthquakes and how the erosion of coastlines impacts on the inhabitants

Impact

Geography at St Columba's is planned to deliver progression through an enquiry-based approach enabling the children to investigate the physical and human differences around the world. Geographical studies build sequentially on the children's understanding of key geographical skills. The curriculum offers a range of geographical perspectives to enable children to have both a good understanding of their local environment whilst also developing knowledge of a wider global picture. All children at St. Columba's receive a broad and balanced curriculum regardless of year group or ability (including SEND and more able). Every child accesses all subjects on offer at our school.

Throughout our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 curriculum, our children will:

- develop an enthusiasm for learning about the world
- secure an understanding of the difference between physical and human geography
- know the importance of resources and their distribution
- by the end of KS2, acquire the range of geographical skills needed to explore Geography at KS3
- discuss Geography in terms of significant features, human activity and weather trends
- know how evidence is used to explore a region
- understand how Britain, the wider world and their local area has been influenced and shaped by their geographical features and resources
- gain and use Geographical vocabulary

At St Columba's our evidence is collected through:

- Our 'humanities' exercise books which are kept individually by class teachers in KS1 and KS2
- SeeSaw
- Pictures and video clips
- Assessed knowledge organisers within exercise books showing children's attainment
- Discussion with pupils, staff, governors
- Pupil voice