

St Laurence Church Infant School

Geography Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: July 2023

Next review due by: July 2026

Love for learning, life and one another.

St Laurence Church Infant School

Geography Policy



As a Rights Respecting School, our Geography curriculum enables our children as rights holders to learn how to explore and understand the world around them and value the contribution that they can make to it.

Our children told us:

"We love Geography because it means we can find out about the whole of God's world. It is really important because it is our world and we need to look after it"

Intent

Why do we teach Geography?

At St Laurence Infant School we want our children to be proud of their local area and the city they live in. We want children to know about the wider world and how they can impact up on it. We want children to understand how people's lives differ at a local, national and world scale but also see how we are all part of one world. We want children to make geographical links with our Christian beliefs.

Our Geography Curriculum is designed to develop five core characteristics in our pupils, which we believe will lay the foundations for them to be lifelong learners and good global citizens. These drivers are:



Our aims in teaching Geography at St Laurence Church Infant School help all children to..

- **Feel part of a Community** by:
 - Understanding the local area
 - Being part of a local community
 - Fostering a sense of belonging
- **Be Creative** by:

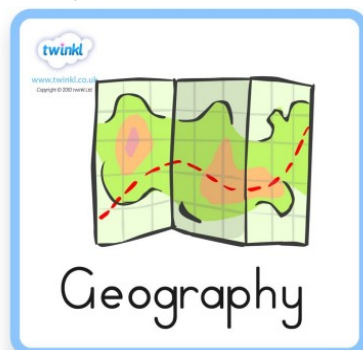
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- Considering their impact on the world around them
- Taking responsibility on how they can make a difference
- **Develop Curiosity** by:
 - Fostering enjoyment in God's world
 - Exploring change and cause and effect
- **Communicate confidently** by:
 - giving and interpreting information about their world
 - Developing our interpersonal skills and life-long participation.
 - Evaluating our own and other's work
- **Care for ourselves, others and our world**
 - Promoting a healthy world
 - Developing physically, mentally, socially and spiritually
 - Building resilience
 - Respecting the views of the others

Implementation

How we teach Geography.

We use a range of teaching and learning styles to deliver the Geography Curriculum. We teach either half termly or termly learning themes that incorporate geographical skills and through practical, hands on lessons we give children the opportunity to embed learning. Children work in mixed ability groups that allow for exploration and discussion. We provide a range of practical resources including ICT to allow children to develop geographical skills and vocabulary. We aim to give context and purpose to their learning so making it relevant to our children and their experiences. We also embed geographical learning through shared story discussions, current affairs, Collective Worship themes and special events that may occur during the school year. Staff use the Geography Subject Jingle at the beginning of each session along with the visual timetable icon to ensure children articulate what Geography is like at St Laurence Church Infant School.



All around the world we go.

Mapping places that we know.

Finding out about the world

It's called Geography! (London bridge is falling down)

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How we plan Geography.

We use the National Curriculum scheme of work for KS1 Geography as the basis of our planning. Coverage is ensured across the Key Stage by long term planning which identifies which objectives are met each term, medium term planning which breaks down the objectives into lessons and weekly planning that outlines the delivery of the lesson best suited to the needs of the class. Planning allows for progression of skills and for all children to access learning through a variety of explore activities.

How we teach Geography in EYFS.

In EYFS geography is taught through Understanding the World but is an integral part of all aspects of EYFS learning. Developing a greater awareness of the world around them and their role within a school community feeds into the Geography curriculum at this early age.

How we teach Geography in KS1.

Geography is taught in blocks and fits within a wider learning theme. It is flexible depending on what is being taught. Children have the opportunity to learn about their local area and then extend this learning to the city of Birmingham. They have the opportunity to make comparisons with different locations in Year One, a seaside study and in Year Two, the country of Ghana which links to the Birmingham/Chocolate Learning focus. In the Summer term Year Two go on a journey around the world incorporating the continents and oceans. Both year groups consider what life in Bethlehem would have been like when Jesus was born. Mapping skills are built on as is geographical field work and vocabulary.

How we ensure all children access the Geography curriculum.

At St Laurence Church Infant School all children access the Geography curriculum regardless of ability. Through carefully planned lessons and a range of different learning opportunities all children have access to the full Geography curriculum.

How we develop fieldwork skills.

We include opportunities to develop geographical skills through regular field work. Children have the opportunity to explore their local area, making observations and asking questions about what they see. Weather stations are used to make daily observations, travel trackers are used to record their journeys to school. Children also have the opportunity to use public transport and see how this links local communities.

How we assess Geography.

Teachers assess how children learn through observing them working in lessons. They use questioning skills to extend learning and give children the opportunity to expand their understanding through practical activities. Children are given immediate feedback during lesson time and steps to move their learning forward. Teachers encourage children to make links across

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the curriculum and allow children to demonstrate their knowledge of Geography at any given time. Teachers use this knowledge to assess progress against the Geography National Curriculum. This can be evidenced in floor books and gallery boards in the classrooms.

How is the teaching and learning of Geography monitored?

The subject lead has regular discussions with class teachers about the delivery of the Geography Curriculum. The Subject Lead provides support with lesson planning and monitors books. These discussions allow for planning to be up dated and modified accordingly in order to best suit the cohort. The Subject Lead also endeavours to stay abreast of new developments in the Geography Curriculum.

Impact

Children at St Laurence Church Infant School will foster a love of the world that they live in. They will have the opportunity to build on skills and make connections with the world around them. They will leave our school promoting a love for God's World and understand how Geography is part of that. The skills, knowledge and vocabulary gained throughout their time being taught the Geography Curriculum at St Laurence Church Infant school, ensures all children are able to Feel part of a Community, Be Creative, Develop Curiosity, Communicate confidently and Care for ourselves, others and our world.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed within the next 3 years or before if there are changes to the Geography curriculum.

Date of policy May 2020

Date Of review May 2023

Geography Co-ordinator Jane McFall