

Geography

Our vision

At St John's Primary School our intention is that our geography curriculum will inspire all our pupils with a curiosity and fascination for the world and develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it, including their place as a child growing up in the North-East of England.

The purpose of our geography curriculum is to enable children to achieve this by understanding how the themes of community, migration, empire, sustainability and innovation have shaped all our lives. Following these themes, we have identified core knowledge our children need to make informed conclusions about geography.

Intent

We want our children to have knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments together with a greater understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes and to encourage the children to show their respect for their local, national and international environment.

At St John's, we build our children's knowledge of geography around four key concepts:

- Location and Place- location focuses on where; understanding the physical location of a place in geographical terms or its relativity to a place. Place focuses on what it is like there, which includes descriptions of a site's features and environmental conditions. The physical and human characteristics of a place that make it unique.
- Cause and effect- the relationship between events and things, where one occurs because of the other.
- Decision making- looking at geographical issues all around us and making choices on how to deal with them by gathering information and assessing alternative resolutions
- Change- which involves any alteration to the natural or cultural environment.

Implementation

At St John's we deliver our humanities subjects through a Mantle of the Expert approach, this allows us to offer children the chance to learn through relevant contexts whilst also developing their knowledge and skills. This inquiry approach to learning provides powerful learning where our children are driven to think and feel about geographical events in open situations.

Careful consideration was taken to ensure the humanities subjects were mapped out on a half-termly basis, where geography is given equally weighting. In addition, use and apply sessions allow children to develop their disciplinary understanding of how a geographer thinks and applies their skills, knowledge and understanding to 'real-life' situation.

Our developed curriculum and method of delivery enables children to learn and progress in geography in four ways:

1. Through refining our core knowledge, children will be able to know more and remember more of their taught geography through understanding more.
2. Children are able to work on the tools and techniques of learning about geography and then develop skills to apply them in different geographical situations.
3. Through four concepts listed above, children are able to build on their understanding across their time at St John's
4. Through the acquisition of appropriate language and vocabulary