

Geography Vision Statement:

Part of our intent at Sacred Heart Primary School is to establish within all children a natural curiosity about the world; through varied and rich learning experiences, our children develop an ingrained interest in our planet and its capacity to sustain life. We are committed to ensuring that all children understand the variety of places, people, resources and environments across the globe, allowing them to value diversity more deeply in our increasingly interconnected world.

The National Curriculum for Geography asserts that all pupils must:

- Develop contextual knowledge of the location of places, seas and oceans, including their defining physical and human characteristics
- Understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- Are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps and writing at length

Through their Key Stage One experiences, all children at Sacred Heart begin their geographical journey with a solid foundational knowledge. By the time children complete Key Stage one, they have developed an understanding of the world, the United Kingdom and their closer locality. The children have begun to understand more technical geographical vocabulary and develop their geographical and fieldwork skills.

By the end of Key Stage two all pupils have extended their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include more of the United Kingdom, Europe, North and South America. The pupils have enhanced location, place and human and physical geography knowledge and will have significantly improved abilities to use maps and compasses and engage in fieldwork.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils develop the capability to observe the world around them and appreciate the impact their actions have on life and nature, shaping how they interact with the world and its resources.

Geography Action Statement:

The children at Sacred Heart access geography through their Creative Curriculum lessons; our pupils gain an acute understanding of human and physical geography; location knowledge; place knowledge; and fieldwork skills that they are entitled to. In all lessons, our children are encouraged to ask questions and think deeply about the information they are accessing, this helps to stimulate their natural curiosity about the world, developing their understanding of, and care for, our planet.

Classes across all year groups have maps, globes and atlases readily available, this enables pupils to further their location and place knowledge, as well as their geographical skills. The children are given opportunities to engage in fieldwork studies, in order to place their compass, grid reference, symbol and key work into a real-life context. At Sacred Heart, our teachers use technical language consistently and accurately, promoting this in our children too; pupils develop terminology naturally and use it confidently when explaining geographical concepts – such as biomes, the water cycle, topography and types of settlement.

Across both key stages, children engage in comparison studies of countries and areas beyond those that they might have an immediate understanding of, or connection to. Some examples of comparison studies in Sacred Heart include countries in Africa, a rainforest and Paris, capital of France. Through their understanding of similarities and differences, our children gain far deeper insight into both their locality and the wider world, enriching their understanding of physical and human processes, landscapes and environments.

The children at Sacred Heart also access geography skills in topics with a greater historical focus – such as the Stone Age to Iron Age, Ancient Egypt and the Mayan Civilisation. Through placing an element of geographical importance on such topics, our pupils gain understanding of how physical and human geography impact upon society's capability to settle in a place, thus encouraging consideration of how our lifestyle will influence future civilisations.

Geography Impact Statement:

Whilst at Sacred Heart Primary School, children have many opportunities to nurture their love for the natural world and develop their understanding of how to care for the environment. The children have opportunities to come together, across year groups and key stages, to access valuable learning experiences – the children learn about topical issues, such as recycling, and diverse topics, such as the richness of life and culture in different countries around the world. Through such experiences, our children gain an understanding of how, as a global community, we can respectfully come together, valuing each other's opinions and traditions, to shape our world and protect our future.

Through their work in our Creative Curriculum syllabus, our children are immersed in geography, developing the ability to see topics through a multitude of lenses. The children learn to look at the world as a complex and multi-faceted organism that they can and should value, protect and engage with in a variety of manners. Our children learn to love and understand geography through linking it to other areas of the curriculum. Through their history learning, for instance, where they place seminal WWII sites on a map or locate the modern-day countries that the Mayan civilisation once lived in. The children can learn through sketching – the lines and shape of a river teaching them about its meandering journey from source to mouth, encountering tributaries and oxbow lakes. Through linking our geography specific learning to the wider curriculum, the children come to understand its role in everyday life and its value in all that they do.

Through learning in depth about a variety of global issues, children from year 1 through to year 6 cultivate an understanding of their position in the world; in developing an understanding of the modern-day needs of the world, the children are able to acknowledge how they can better protect resources and natural life. At Sacred Heart we are committed to instilling within the pupils a sense of shared responsibility for God-given resources, preparing the children for the opportunities and responsibilities they face in a rapidly developing world.