

# Geography



## Intent

At St Mary's, our aim is to provide a high-quality geography curriculum that inspires a love of learning about the world, fostering curiosity and a sense of responsibility towards our environment and communities. Underpinned by the values of our Catholic faith, our geography education seeks to help children understand their place within the world, appreciate the diverse cultures that enrich our lives, and recognise the need for stewardship of God's creation.

We intend to:

- **Promote Cultural Understanding:** Equip students with the geographical knowledge and skills to appreciate the diversity of communities, fostering respect for all cultures in line with our Catholic ethos.
- **Encourage Environmental Stewardship:** Instill a sense of responsibility in students towards environmental conservation and sustainability through the study of local and global issues.
- **Develop Critical Thinking and Skills:** Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking, data analysis, and enquiry skills, enabling them to interpret and engage with both human and physical geography.
- **Link Learning to Faith:** Integrate Catholic Social Teaching principles into geography, helping students to understand the moral implications of geography in our world today.

## Implementation

To realise our intent, we implement a progressive, engaging geography curriculum that builds on prior learning, enriched by further learning opportunities across all key stages, which includes:

- **Sequential Curriculum Design:** Our geography curriculum is thoughtfully sequenced, ensuring that students build on their knowledge year on year. It encompasses local, national, and global perspectives, addressing key geographical concepts such as location, place, human-environment interaction, and spatial sense.
- **Experiential Learning:** We employ hands-on learning experiences, including field trips, outdoor learning, and community projects that connect classroom knowledge to real-world geography. For instance, all students engage in a visit to our local nature reserve, Rivacre Valley, examining the impact of human and physical geography within their local area.

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Through our 'topic' approach, geography is intrinsically integrated with other subjects such as Science, History, Forest School and RE, facilitating a holistic understanding of how geographical processes interlink with broader socio-cultural and environmental contexts.
- **Use of Technology:** We leverage technology and digital mapping tools to enrich learning experiences, allowing students to visualise geographical data and engage with resources from around the world.
- **Commitment to Diversity:** Normalising discussions about global issues and multi-cultural perspectives is vital, tactfully drawing comparisons between the place we live and those in the developing world.
- **Ongoing Assessment and Feedback:** Continuous formative assessment strategies, including peer assessments and self-reflection, are employed to monitor student progress and adapt teaching strategies accordingly.

## Impact

Our geography curriculum has a significant impact on students' learning and development, evidenced through:

- **Knowledge and Skills Acquisition:** Students demonstrate a profound understanding of geographical concepts and show enthusiasm for the subject, reflected in their engagement and participation during lessons and projects.
- **Community Awareness and Responsibility:** Pupils articulate a clear understanding of their role in the local and global community. They engage in sustainability initiatives, such as litter-picking projects and the development of our sensory garden, showcasing their commitment to environmental stewardship. Our Mini Vinnies and Eco Warriors pupil voice groups lead whole-school initiatives on raising awareness of both local and global projects
- **Cultural Literacy:** Students possess heightened awareness and respect for diverse cultures and are able to articulate the importance of understanding and valuing different perspectives, furthering their social and emotional development.
- **Enhanced Critical Thinking:** Through inquiry-based learning, pupils develop critical and geographical thinking skills. They are able to pose questions about the world, gather evidence, and communicate their findings effectively through presentations and collaborative projects.