



# **Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School**

## **Geography Policy**

**2025- 2026**

Coordinator: Mrs. R Hodgkins

Updated: September 2025

To be reviewed: September 2026

At Star of the Sea primary school we want all pupils to think like geographers. We want them to become curious, lifelong learners and to understand the geography of the world and of our local area. We want pupils to be inspired, to be curious and to be fascinated about the world and its people.

**“The study of Geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It is about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exist across continents.”**

Barack Obama

We have agreed Drivers for our curriculum, which impact all our subjects:

Spiritual - living out the Gospel Values

Togetherness - as a Rights Respecting school

Ambitious and Aspirational -to reach our full potential

Resilient - we never give up

Self-belief - striving to succeed with a Growth Mindset

### **Intent**

The intention of the Geography Curriculum at Star of the Sea is to inspire children’s curiosity and interest to explore the world that we live in and its people, which aims to ignite a love of learning.

We intend to equip children with geographical skills to develop their knowledge through studying places, people and natural and human environments.

This seeks to deepen the understanding of the Earth's human and physical forms and processes.

Geography, by nature, is an investigative subject.

Through our teaching, we intend to provoke thought, questions and to encourage children to discover answers to their own questions through exploration and research to enable them to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of the world and their place in it.

**Substantive knowledge** represents the geographical content that is taught in each year group. Through our whole school planning, we address this through four interrelated forms:

- locational knowledge
- place knowledge
- human and physical processes (or 'environmental')
- geographical skills.

Through a high-quality geography curriculum, we aim to inspire in pupils, to develop a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Teaching equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Our curriculum ensures that pupils' progress, and their growing knowledge about the world, helps them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments.

Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

## Aims

- To learn about their own locality, people and its environment.
- To compare and contrast the UK to Europe and the rest of the world.
- To study the human and physical Geography
- To extend subject specific vocabulary relating to human and physical Geography in order to carry out effective enquiry.
- To enable children to know and understand environmental problems at a local, regional and global level;
- To increase children's knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, teach a respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural country.
- To develop their interest and enjoyment for Geography and their sense of awe and wonder.

## Implementation

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school.

Geography is taught as part of a termly topic, focusing on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum.

At Star of the Sea, we ensure that geography has the same importance given to it as the core subjects, as we feel this is important in enabling all children to gain 'real-life' experiences.

The Geography curriculum provides a broad framework and outlines the knowledge and skills and taught in each Key Stage.

Teachers plan lessons for their class using our progression of knowledge and skills document.

Teachers can use this document to plan their geography lessons suitable to their class's interests and what they want to learn. The progression document ensures the curriculum is covered and the skills/knowledge taught is progressive from year group to year group.

Geography teaching focuses on enabling children to think as geographers.

A variety of teaching approaches are used based on the teacher's judgement.

Geography provides excellent opportunities to enhance the learning of more able pupils through the investigations, analysing sources and writing extending pieces. Children showing extensive aptitude in geography will be placed on our schools gifted and talented register.

Educational visits are another opportunity for the teachers to plan for additional geography learning outside the classroom.

At Star of the Sea, the children have had many opportunities to experience geography on educational visits. The children have explored the local area

including orienteering within the school grounds. Local museums also provide an opportunity to further geography learning, as well as trips to local woods, castles and using map reading skills during residential trips.

### At Star of the Sea Geography involves:

- Use a wide range of ICT to support subject investigations and enquiries.
- Develop, enhance and apply fieldwork skills and techniques. Collecting primary information.
- Use a wide range of resources to collect secondary geographical information such as videos, books, newspapers, brochures and photographs.
- Make and draw maps and plans at a range of scales and for a range of purposes.
- Use outside experts and agencies to support learning and teaching.
- To allow children to imagine what it would be like to live in other places with cultural differences.
- To name physical features of places such as coast, cliff, valley, vegetation etc.
- To follow and use directional language and use these to direct others.

### Teaching and Learning guidelines.

At Star of the Sea we use a variety of teaching and learning styles to ensure engagement for all pupils.

- A variety of data is used to support and enhance learning such as maps, statistics, graphs, pictures, aerial photographs and ICT.
- Whole class teaching methods, enquiry based group work, individual, pair, class and group work.
- We encourage children to ask and answer Geographical questions – expanding to giving supporting evidence based on research.
- Pupils are taught through discussion, practical activity, games, investigations, problem solving, research, role play and recording.
- Wherever possible we expose them to ‘real life’ problems and environmental disasters allowing for research.

In both Key Stage 1 and 2 the children will study the four strands as set out by the National Curriculum

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

### Planning and Organisation

We teach Geography using a creative curriculum.

All teachers to follow the Long term plan as set out by the Geography co-ordinator.

All teachers to follow medium term planning: an overview of the curriculum coverage, progression, assessment opportunities, enhancement opportunities, trips, visitors etc.

### Differentiation

At Star of the Sea we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential through the provision of varied lessons and resources. Our curriculum planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school.

### Additional Educational Needs and Equal Opportunities

At Star of the Sea we will ensure suitable learning opportunities and challenge matches to the ability to each pupil. This will be done by,

- Teaching Assistants to support the work of individual pupils or groups of pupils.
- Giving additional teacher input to some pupils when needed.
- Provision being made for pupils on the SEND and Gifted and Talented registers.
- Providing resources of different complexity according to the ability of the pupil.

Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of Geography.

### Impact

Within geography, we strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry based learning opportunities.

Emphasis is placed on investigative learning opportunities to help children gain a coherent knowledge of understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school.

Our geography curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression.

We focus on progression of knowledge and skills and discreet vocabulary progression also form part of the units of work.

Children will deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and how this affects landscapes and environments.

### Monitoring and Assessment

At Star of the Sea we will assess pupils continuously on an informal basis.

After a unit of work is completed we will decide whether children are working towards/working at/working above the expectation for the year group.

This will then guide us in planning the pupil's future learning.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Assessing children's understanding of topic linked vocabulary.
- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Images and videos of the children's practical learning.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Moderation staff meetings where pupil's books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class' work.
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.
- Marking of written work in books.