



**Mexborough St John the Baptist
Church of England Primary**

Geography Policy

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

Michael Palin, 2007

Intent:

INTENT

At Mexborough St John the Baptist we value all of God's children, creating an inclusive environment that helps all to flourish. Our motivating and stimulating curriculum encourages children to become:

- **effective learners** through a curriculum designed to build on progressive knowledge and skills;
- **responsible citizens** who take responsibility for themselves and their actions, show compassion to others and are respectful.

Our ambitious curriculum has a sharp focus on the five key concepts of geography. This ensures that our children become clear-thinking and enlightened citizens who are informed about the world. Our carefully chosen topics ensure our children receive high-quality teaching surrounding all the world's continents. It is an inspiring curriculum

Implementation:

This policy promotes best practice and establishes consistency in Teaching and Learning across the whole school. It aims to ensure that all pupils are provided with high quality learning experiences to develop pupil's life-long love of learning.

There is a clear rationale behind our geography curriculum. The five key concepts of location, place, physical geography, human geography, and sustainability identify the substantive knowledge to be taught. Clear content sequencing, progression maps and knowledge organisers, place this in the context of long-term knowledge growth.

When teaching geography topics, we start with a key question to engage and focus learning. With an eye to the context of our community, we prioritise offering our children a wide and inspiring set of experiences, through drivers such as launch events, trips, visits, purpose and learning celebrations.

Intelligent repetition of key concepts enables children to strengthen memory over time, thus leading to deeper understanding. It is essential that children remember the knowledge that they have been taught so that learning 'sticks' for them to understand new knowledge, make learning links and apply this in different contexts. The core skills of recall, understand, connect, and apply are used to facilitate this.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. Our progression maps ensure coverage of all areas of geographical knowledge. These include sustainability and looking after our environment, our local biomes, identifying countries of the world and discussing the similarities and differences between those and the UK, introduction of map skills, seasonal changes, and the weather.

Our EYFS curricular goals also include growing plants and harvesting them in our allotment area. This contributes towards our knowledge and understanding of the world.

Key Stage 1:

In Key Stage 1, Pupils will focus on our five key concepts. Introduction to these concepts as soon as our children start in Year 1 ensures learning 'sticks'. Our stand-alone Key Stage 1 geography topics are: "what's around the corner?" and "what can you see at the seaside?". In Year 1, children will begin to use maps to locate places. This skill is developed into Year 2 as children locate all the coastal regions they study and the four countries of the UK. Children will begin to explore and compare the human and physical geographical features of the UK. Sustainability is a key focus during key stage one geography. This allows emphasis of the importance of this concept. We must look after our planet, only we are responsible for that.

Key Stage 2:

In Key Stage 2, pupils will continue to develop their knowledge of the five key concepts. They will be familiar with these concepts upon starting in key stage 2. Familiarity with these key concepts ensures learning is understood, links are made and applied to new contexts. To ensure clear progression is made, we continue to study countries which are further away in key Stage 2. In Year 3 we study Wales, Year 4 Europe (specifically Spain), Year 5 North America and in Year 6 South America. On leaving our school, the children have been exposed to and explored countries all over the world.

Differentiation for vulnerable groups (SEND, Pupil Premium, etc.)

As the curriculum is supposed to be challenging for all Pupils, some may find this trickier to access. Throughout the teaching sequence ensure learning is differentiated and the Teaching Assistant is deployed at all appropriate points. Bear in mind ideas to include SEND Pupils to ensure they can access learning alongside their peers.

Impact:

Pupils' learning over time, reflects the intended curriculum. The concepts and big ideas provide the schema through which meaning is made and helps to ensure long term knowledge growth. This in turn ensures pupils know more and can do more.

Research shows that repetition of course content leads to sticky learning; the transfer of knowledge from the short term to long term memory. At Mexborough St John's, we achieve this through regular retrieval practise. Children can speak with confidence about what they have learnt and how they can apply this to other parts of their learning.

The impact of our curriculum will be seen not only in measurable attainment and progress, but that St John the Baptist Primary School creates polite, well-mannered caring members of our school community who understand and respect everybody's differences and needs.

Assessment:

Assessment is ongoing through geography units of work and includes a range of techniques to be more supportive of learning. Assessment may be done through assessment questions included on knowledge organisers, teacher questioning that probes understanding, marking and feedback and retrieval practice.

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