



Geography at St. Michael's

At St. Michael's, we aim to inspire all pupils about the world and its people, creating a lifelong curiosity and fascination. Our teaching provides pupils with knowledge about places, people, resources and both natural and human environments. As pupils' knowledge of these areas increases, their understanding of the interaction between the earth's physical and human processes deepens, as does their understanding of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Teaching also aims to provide pupils with the fieldwork skills to collect, analyse and communicate data. We hope that the knowledge and understanding pupils gain in geography over their time at St. Michael's will help them understand their place in the world, how our actions affect the planet and how people's lives around the world are affected by their environment.

Curriculum Implementation

The geography curriculum is implemented by focusing on 4 areas: locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography and geographical skills and fieldwork, as defined in the National Curriculum. These skills are developed as the children progress through the school. Skills are taught by teachers who are helped in their subject knowledge by staff training as well as development through collaborations with each other and looking at children's work. Geography is taught weekly for half a term, meaning 3 topics are covered each year in KS1 and KS2. In Reception, geography is taught within different topics on an ongoing basis.

The geography curriculum aims to ensure pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- 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
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Practical work in geography is encouraged, so that pupils can gain hands-on experience with maps, compasses and discovering the local area and identifying human and natural features. Cross-curricular learning also enhances pupils' understanding in subjects such as English and art. In Reception and Year 1, there is also a weekly lunchtime geography club which aims to provide an enjoyable introduction to the subject, where children locate a given country on globes and maps, look at the country's flag and listen to traditional music.

EYFS

In the Foundation Stage, geography is part of Understanding the World. Pupils learn to:
Draw information from a simple map.

Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.

Explore the natural world around them.

Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.

KS1

In years 1 and 2, pupils are taught to develop their knowledge about the world, the UK and Woolmer Green, using relevant vocabulary. Pupils begin to use geographical skills to aid their locational awareness. As well as locational knowledge, we teach pupils about seasons and weather patterns in the UK and look at hot and cold places in the world. Pupils learn about key physical features and key human features. They use world maps, atlases and globes to enhance their learning. Pupils also learn simple compass directions and study aerial photographs. They create their own maps, both on paper and in 3D. Pupils also undertake simple fieldwork and use observational skills to study St. Michael's and look at key human and physical features of Woolmer Green. Local field trips are being encouraged to enhance pupils' understanding and experience.

KS2

In KS2, pupils extend their locational knowledge and understanding beyond Woolmer Green to include the rest of the UK, Europe and North and South American. Pupils learn to locate different countries and major cities, as well as identifying key physical and human features. They also learn to identify key topographical features and land-use patterns, understanding how these may change over time. Pupils identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones. Pupils compare and contrast part of the UK to a region in Europe and a region in North or South America. Pupils learn about climate zones, biomes, rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and the water cycle. Included in human geography is the understanding of settlement types, economic activity and distribution of natural resources. As well as extending their use of maps and atlases, children in KS2 also use digital/computer mapping. Their knowledge of compass points is extended and they also use grid references. Pupils' fieldwork skills are developed, using a range of methods such as sketch maps, plans, graphs and digital technology.

Curriculum Impact

The geography curriculum at St. Michael's aims to equip pupils with a secure knowledge of the world, through places and people and a secure ability to use their geographical skills in the real world by the end of Year 6. We also hope to foster an appreciation of our world and how we need to look after it.