

Geography at St. Michael's

At St. Michael's, we follow the National Curriculum for Geography and use the Kapow Primary scheme to help us plan exciting, meaningful lessons. This approach ensures that children receive a well-rounded and engaging geographical education that helps them understand the world around them.

Each unit is guided by a 'big question' that encourages children to think critically and reflect on important global and local issues. These questions help them explore topics such as climate change, sustainability, and how communities around the world live and work.

From Reception to Year 6, children study three Geography units each year. Each one builds on previous learning, helping them develop a strong foundation of knowledge and skills. In Key Stages 1 and 2, every unit is centred around a big question that encourages children to think deeply about their world, their community, and their role within it.

Children learn about a wide range of places, people, environments, and natural and human processes through carefully structured units. They are encouraged to ask thoughtful geographical questions—such as how landscapes are formed, how people interact with their surroundings, and how different parts of the world are connected. Our curriculum also helps children develop an eco-friendly mindset, encouraging them to think about how their actions affect the planet. As they explore topics, they consider important local and global issues, such as climate change, sustainability, and the impact of human activity on the environment, helping them become informed, responsible citizens of the world.

A key part of our Geography curriculum is fieldwork. Children get the chance to explore their local environment, collect and analyse data, and apply what they've learned in real-world settings. We make full use of our local surroundings in Woolmer Green and our Forest School, giving pupils regular opportunities to investigate geographical features first-hand. This hands-on approach helps them develop practical skills and a deeper understanding of geographical ideas through direct experience and meaningful exploration.

Our curriculum also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental awareness. Children learn about climate change, renewable energy, conservation, and how human actions affect the planet. We want our pupils to feel empowered to make informed choices and take positive action for a more sustainable future. We run termly environmental events such as "No Electricity Days" and waste awareness campaigns to support this. In addition to this, our Eco-Committee and travel ambassadors, made up of enthusiastic pupils, lead projects that promote environmental responsibility across the school.

Children also develop important geographical skills, such as:

- Exploring and handling artefacts related to geography and the environment.
- Researching and presenting information using maps, diagrams, and digital tools.
- Interpreting sources like aerial photos, globes, and GIS (Geographical Information Systems).
- Understanding different viewpoints and recognising bias, helping them think critically about the information they encounter.

Each lesson lasts around 45 minutes to an hour and includes a mix of activities such as discussions, map work, practical investigations, and cross-curricular links to subjects like science and literacy.

By using Kapow Primary and adapting it to meet our pupils' needs, we ensure that every child at St. Michael's develops a strong understanding of geography—and a lifelong curiosity about the world they live in.