

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School



Geography Policy 2023

Purpose of Study

The National Curriculum states that geography should “inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip 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.” At St Matthew’s Bloxam we want our children to gain a secure knowledge and understanding of a range of geographical techniques and inspire them to take a keen interest in local and world geography.

As a school we follow the Connected Curriculum planning for Geography, but use local area studies to enhance this scheme for our children.

Aims

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all 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 (GIS)
- communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Objectives

Early Years

In the Early Years, geography is taught as part of the topic work covered during the year. At St Matthew's we aim to develop a child's understanding of the world through activities and stories of places in the local area and around the world.

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, children start to use a variety of resources (including digital technologies, maps and photographs) to investigate their local area and areas around the world. By the end of Key Stage 1 they will have begun to compare their local area to areas around the wider world. They will start to ask geographical questions about people, places and environments.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, children build upon the skills and resources they used in Key Stage 1 to further investigate their local area, Britain and the wider world. They will be able to use a variety of skills and resources to question and compare and contrast the areas studied. Children will use ICT and map skills to carry out geographical enquiries to enable them to study how an area has developed and compare with places studied over their geography teaching across the school. By the end of Key Stage 2, children will question and respond to the impact that populations have had on areas studied.

Teaching and learning

At St Matthews Bloxam we aim to provide children with access to maps, graphs, images (including aerial photographs) and statistics to enhance their learning. These can be in the form of physical resources and digital resources. We also aim to make use of the local area to enhance children's geographical understanding.

Planning

At St Matthew's Bloxam, teachers use a range of whole-class teaching, group or individual activities to ensure children gain a valuable learning experience from the topics studied. The topics covered are mapped out in the topic long-term planning and teachers use this to aid their long-term planning and weekly plans. Teachers also use the Royal Geographical Society maps sessions to assist with map reading skills units throughout the school.

Assessment

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows the whole school policy guidelines. All pupils' work is regularly marked and assessed against the key skills. Pupils are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school marking policy.

Resources

At St Matthew's Bloxam children have access to a range of resources and these are stored in topic boxes clearly labelled for each unit. These boxes are monitored to ensure high quality resources are available for all classes to access. The library also has a range of books that can be accessed to aid teaching. Teachers can make use of a variety of online documents (including from the Royal

Geographical Society) to assist with high-quality teaching across the school. All teachers have access to the Connected Geography planning documents.

Monitoring

The geography lead will monitor books at the end of a unit of work. Throughout the year learning walks take place to ensure high-quality teaching in geography.