

St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School



Geography Policy

Date of Policy:	November 2025
Person Responsible:	Miss J Howarth
Review Date:	November 2028

Our Mission

Our church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with
Jesus
at the heart of all we do.

St James' Lanehead C of E (VA) Primary School

Geography Policy

Our philosophy

At St James' Lanehead C of E Primary School, we believe that the study of geography contributes to the cultural, social, spiritual and moral life of our children. Geography allows children to acquire knowledge of a range of different cultures and traditions, learning tolerance and understanding of other people and environments. We believe that geography provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved.

Aims

Through the teaching of geography, we aim to inspire children to think about their own place in the world, as well as their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment. By placing importance on the interaction between the physical and the human environment, we aim to make children aware of the future of our planet, their effect upon their surroundings and how they can contribute to improving the environment, however small that contribution might be.

Geography offers opportunities for children to:

- Make sense of their surroundings through learning about their own locality and the interaction between people and the environment
- Ask and answer questions about the natural and human world
- Increase their knowledge of other cultures and, in so doing, develop respect and understanding of what it means to be a positive citizen in a multi-cultural society
- Develop a range of investigative and problem-solving skills both inside and outside the classroom
- Understand and discuss issues about the environment and sustainable development
- Foster a sense of curiosity and wonder at the beauty of the world around them
- Develop geographical skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps of different scales, and the vocabulary necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry
- Apply map reading skills to globes and atlas maps and identify geographical features
- Formulate appropriate questions, develop research skills and evaluate material to inform opinions

Curriculum

At St James' Lanehead C of E Primary, children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, aptitudes and physical, emotional and intellectual development. Through geography, the children learn a range of skills, concepts, attitudes and methods of working.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, children follow a rolling programme to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum are met by the end of each key stage, due to our mixed classes. Geography is taught every half-term and Kapow is used as a starting point for planning. Each unit has a big question, with each lesson also having its own 'Learning Question' that the children investigate. Within the curriculum, the following concepts are covered:

Place, Scale, Physical and Human Processes, Sustainable Development, Space, Interdependence, Environmental Impact and Cultural Awareness and Diversity.

Early Years

Geography is taught in Reception as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the geographical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years curriculum which underpin the planning for children aged three to five. Geography makes a significant contribution to developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as finding out about different places and habitats and investigating our locality.

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, pupils investigate their local area and a contrasting area in the United Kingdom or abroad, finding out about the environment in both areas and the people who live there. They also begin to learn about the wider world. They carry out geographical enquiries inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions about people, places and environments and use geographical skills and resources, such as maps and photographs.

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, pupils investigate a variety of people, places and environments in the United Kingdom and abroad, and start to make links between different places in the world. They find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. Pupils carry out geographical enquiries inside and outside the classroom. In doing this, they ask geographical questions, and use geographical skills and resources, such as maps, atlases, aerial photographs and ICT. Children will develop geographical enquiry skills, including asking geographical questions and collecting/recording information and identifying different views. They will acquire the appropriate practical skills associated with Geography, such as using suitable vocabulary, fieldwork techniques and the use of maps, plans and atlases. Pupils will use secondary sources of information with accuracy, including aerial photographs and satellite images.

Guidelines

1. All children are given equal opportunities to follow the National Curriculum for Geography.
2. Work is planned to ensure progression of content and skills across each Key Stage, appropriate to the children's ages and abilities.
3. Cross-curricular links are made with other subjects, including ICT, where appropriate.
4. Practical activities should involve appropriate aspects of geographical enquiry, including: asking questions, observing and recording, expressing views and communicating findings.
5. Pupils should be taught to: use appropriate vocabulary, develop fieldwork skills, use globes, maps and atlases, use secondary sources, make their own maps and plans and develop decision making skills.
6. All children are made aware of health and safety issues when undertaking work in Geography. They are encouraged to show respect for all living things and the physical environment.