Geography

Curriculum Intent:

Our Geography curriculum aims to inspire curiosity and fascination about the world. Through key geographical themes, place studies and engaging case studies, children develop an understanding of diverse places, people and resources across the globe. Starting with local and national environments, learning gradually builds locational knowledge alongside an understanding of Human and Physical Geography and key geographical concepts. By the end of Key Stage 2, children will understand how humans and the movement of people shape our world. We aim to develop environmentally responsible, informed citizens who appreciate the importance of sustainability and the ever-changing nature of our planet, carrying this knowledge and awareness with them throughout their lives.

Curriculum Vision:

Our vision for Geography is to deepen children's understanding of the world, fostering a natural curiosity about how environments form and evolve over time. We want pupils to recognise Geography as a dynamic, 'living' subject that directly connects to the 'here and now'. By studying a diverse range of carefully selected global locations, we aim to broaden horizons beyond St Helens—raising children's aspirations to travel and helping them appreciate that the wider world is accessible to everyone.

I feel very fortunate to lead the Geography curriculum and share my love of exploring the world around us. I find it fascinating to discover the different places, landscapes and people that make our world so special. Through Opening Worlds, I hope to inspire children to be curious about the world, explore new places and develop a real love of Geography that stays with them for life.

Mrs Battersby
Subject Champion



Curriculum Sequencing:

In EYFS, children begin their geographical learning through a series of Learning Enquiries, starting with the 'Local Area' before exploring 'Our Local Community', 'Life in Our Country' and 'Life in Countries Around the World'. These experiences build on children's natural interests and provide a strong foundation for future geographical learning throughout school. From Year 1 to Year 6, the National Curriculum underpins our approach, with a continued focus on three key geographical concepts: 'change, diversity and interaction'. Through our bespoke curriculum planning, alongside the use of Opening Worlds resources in KS2, children develop an understanding of how and why the world around them changes. Knowledge is carefully sequenced across each year group and topic, allowing children to build progressively on their locational knowledge and understanding of Human and Physical Geography. Geographical skills are also developed systematically, enabling pupils to apply their learning with increasing confidence. In KS2, Geography is taught weekly to support knowledge retention, with learning extending beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum. Across the school, key geographical knowledge is identified through substantive milestones, ensuring important learning is revisited and remembered beyond individual units. This approach supports progression, reduces gaps in learning and enables children to know more and remember more.

Joyful Readers :

Reading is an important part of our Geography curriculum, helping children to explore the world through rich and engaging texts. In KS1, our carefully selected Geography Reading Spine includes one key text each term, chosen to develop a wider understanding of the world, introduce geographical ideas and build vocabulary. These texts support each unit and are shared, explored and discussed together as a class.

Through the Opening Worlds curriculum, reading continues to play a central role. Engaging texts, non-fiction accounts and geographical information help to spark curiosity and deepen pupils' understanding of different places, people and environments. This approach develops geographical knowledge, strengthens reading skills such as comprehension and interpretation, and broadens vocabulary. By weaving reading throughout our Geography curriculum, we aim to nurture confident, enthusiastic readers with a lasting curiosity about the world around them.

openingworlds

Curriculum Progression:

Our Geography curriculum begins in EYFS, building on children's interests and experiences through the exploration of local areas, communities, our country and the wider world. From Year 1 to Year 6, learning follows the National Curriculum, with a focus on the key concepts of 'change, diversity and interaction', supported by our bespoke planning and Opening Worlds resources in KS2.Knowledge and skills are carefully sequenced to develop children's locational knowledge and understanding of Human and Physical Geography.

Weekly Geography lessons in KS2 support knowledge retention, while substantive milestones ensure key learning is revisited and remembered. Our aim is for all children to build on prior knowledge, develop their geographical skills and truly know more and remember more.

Our Journey Drivers in Geography

Joyful Readers

Reading is woven throughout our Geography curriculum, with a range of engaging texts, non-fiction accounts and geographical sources helping children discover more about the world. Through Opening Worlds, pupils develop their geographical knowledge, strengthen reading skills such as comprehension and interpretation, and build a wider vocabulary. By making reading an integral part of Geography, we aim to inspire curious learners who enjoy exploring and understanding the world around them.

Opportunities to Build on Knowledge and Skills

Our Geography curriculum is carefully planned to develop children's knowledge and skills progressively over time. Using the Opening Worlds programme, alongside our own planning, pupils explore a diverse range of places, environments and geographical themes, building a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Understanding British and Christian Values

British and Christian Values:
Through Geography, children develop an understanding of stewardship, responsibility, diversity and respect for people and the environment.
The study of different cultures and communities encourages empathy, understanding and respect, while promoting values that reflect both British and Christian beliefs.

Resilience and Perseverance

Geography challenges children to explore and understand complex topics, including climate, global trade and natural disasters. By revisiting key knowledge, developing their use of geographical vocabulary and thinking carefully about challenging ideas, pupils build confidence, perseverance and resilience in their learning.

Nurturing Curiosity

Using a range of historical artefacts and engaging reading materials to spark curiosity and bring history to life.
Encouraging children to ask questions, investigate the past and discover answers for themselves.
Celebrating historical events and themed days to inspire interest and excitement in history.

Encourage Articulate Learners

Creating discussion time in the classroom so children can articulate their learning.
Allowing children to explore historical events and being able to retell ancient stories.
Whole class discussions to address misconceptions.
Insisting on key vocabulary being used during discussions.

Your Wellbeing and Health

Exploring a wide range of histories also allows us to see connections across time and cultures, broadening my perspective and fostering a sense of belonging in the wider world. Developing language and vocabulary skills supports clear expression, while the consistent approach provides stability and reduces stress, contributing positively to both my learning and wellbeing.

Inclusive Practice in Geography:

EYFS as the Bedrock of Learning:

In EYFS, our Geography curriculum is rooted in the Early Learning Goal for Understanding the World, providing the foundations for children to develop an awareness of the world around them. Through geographical experiences, children begin to explore different places, environments and communities, developing curiosity about the world and how it changes. Learning is shaped by the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which support children in their geographical understanding:

Engagement – Through playing and exploring, children investigate their surroundings and discover the world with curiosity.

Motivation – Active learning encourages children to explore, ask questions and develop an interest in different places and environments.

Thinking – Creative and critical thinking helps children make connections, notice similarities and differences and develop an understanding of the world. Our EYFS curriculum is built around three key learning enquiries: 'Our Local Area', 'Our Local Community' and 'Life in Our Country and Countries Around the World'. These themes are outlined in the EYFS Knowledge Planner and are carefully planned to capture children's interests, develop early geographical knowledge and provide a strong foundation for more structured learning in Key Stage 1 and beyond.

Meeting the Needs of all Learners:

Our Geography curriculum is designed to develop children's independence and confidence in learning, allowing all pupils to access lessons at an appropriate level. Adaptive teaching approaches are used to support individual needs and encourage children to deepen their geographical understanding. Additional support is provided within lessons, alongside pre-teaching and targeted interventions to help children develop and retain key geographical knowledge. Geographical milestones identify the essential knowledge children need to remember and build upon as they progress through the curriculum, ensuring they are prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Strong Foundations:

Our Geography curriculum provides children with the essential knowledge, vocabulary and skills needed to understand the world around them.

In the early years, children are introduced to different places, patterns and simple mapping through stories, discussion and practical activities. As they progress through school, learning is carefully planned to revisit and build upon previous knowledge, allowing their understanding to develop over time.

This approach helps children retain key information, grow in confidence and use their geographical knowledge to explore, discuss and make sense of the wider world.





Wider Curriculum Considerations in Geography:

Teaching Pedagogy:

The ten teaching techniques are embedded throughout the History curriculum to ensure consistent, high-quality instruction that supports all learners. These techniques—such as explicit vocabulary teaching, structured discussion, modelling, and regular retrieval—are woven into every lesson, reinforcing key knowledge and concepts. By using these approaches systematically, teachers build pupils' confidence, deepen understanding, and support long-term retention. This shared pedagogical framework also promotes consistency across classrooms and year groups, helping pupils make meaningful connections and progress securely through the curriculum.

Developing Cultural Capital:

Cultural capital is the knowledge, experiences and skills that children develop, helping them to understand the world and become confident, informed members of society.
Through our Geography curriculum, we aim to broaden pupils' experiences and build cultural capital by providing:
Opportunities for fieldwork and exploration in the local area and further afield.
Access to a variety of high-quality maps to explore locations around the world and develop an understanding of their human and physical features, including the impact of human activity.
Opportunities to discover different cultures, traditions and languages, making links between communities and their geographical locations.

Personal Development:

Through Opening Worlds in KS2, geographical knowledge is regularly revisited and strengthened through retrieval practice and active learning. Pupils also develop key skills, including map reading, interpreting information and critical thinking. Our Geography curriculum broadens children's understanding of the world and their place within it. Exploring different cultures, communities and environments encourages empathy, respect and an appreciation of diversity. Topics such as sustainability, global responsibility and human impact promote thoughtful discussion and help children become informed, responsible citizens.

Staff CPD:

Working collaboratively across the partnership to share ideas and develop effective curriculum planning.

Taking part in LDST Geography network meetings and accessing curriculum updates through School Improvement Liverpool.

Providing Opening Worlds curriculum training to ensure staff feel confident in delivering Geography.

Offering professional development to strengthen geographical teaching in EYFS.

Using ongoing coaching and support to continually improve teaching approaches and learning outcomes.

Assessment:

Continuous formative assessment is used across all year groups, supported by a range of effective teaching strategies.
Retrieval practice is embedded into every Geography lesson, with three key retrieval opportunities evidenced within each unit.
Each unit concludes with a synoptic task to assess and strengthen pupils' understanding of the key learning.
The subject leader produces a termly report, alongside monitoring, moderation opportunities and clear next steps to support ongoing curriculum improvement.