

Geography Intent Statement

In accordance with the academy's philosophy, we seek to inspire all of our pupils with a positive attitude towards Geography where they are keen to know more about their geographical surroundings. Children are also encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world and their place within it as well as developing an understanding of the interaction of the Earth's human and physical processes. Our academy aims to achieve this through the studying of specific locations within our topic based approach as well as using maps and atlases to study these. We want our pupils to become confident and skilled geographers who are fascinated by the world they live in and apply their new understanding to their everyday lives. We want our Geography curriculum to set our pupils on the path to life-long learning through the continual development of useful skills for Geography such as: mapping and fieldwork skills, analysis of data, communication and interpretation.

The Geography Curriculum at St Bernadette's aims to engage and excite our pupils. Indeed the geography national curriculum states "geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people" (P.1). This will be achieved through teaching the various aspects of Geography which include the development of "Locational", "Place", "Human and Physical" knowledge and 'Geographical Skills and Fieldwork". We aim for our pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills to develop progressively through our carefully planned Geography curriculum which is delivered through our academy's termly topics.

The academy aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through our topic based curriculum. Each cross-curricular topic was specifically chosen to meet the needs and interests of the children in our academy and are taught on a two year cycle to ensure the complete coverage of the National Curriculum subjects which includes Geography. The academy understands the importance of our children's understanding of what Geography is and the careers that link with it as this is discussed and promoted in lessons. The cross-curricular topics have been developed in Key Stage and Year Group teams to ensure complete coverage and progression of the National Curriculum. A Geography Skills Progression Document has also been created to help map out how our pupils' Geography education progresses from Early Years to Year 7. This document helps ensure that teachers are aware of pupils' starting points and prior knowledge as well as where the children's learning goes next and their end points.

The teaching and learning in Geography lessons at St Bernadette's are of a high standard and enable all children to make good progress. Staff at St Bernadette's have good Geography subject knowledge and use it to support and challenge pupils in their learning. High level of questioning is used in lessons to refine pupils' understanding and encourages pupils to provide in-depth responses. Resources such as maps and atlases are also used in lessons to support pupils in their development of mapping skills as well as locational and place knowledge. Staff support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in learning with appropriately differentiated tasks and additional

resources enabling all pupils to make progress. The assessment of pupils' progress in Geography is in line with the academy's Assessment Policy and staff use both formative and summative assessment to aid their planning.

In order to achieve this, the academy aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Show a deepening understanding of the world beyond their local area. Including the UK, Europe, North and South America. Helping them to understand and know the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features.
- Understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, leading to an understanding of how these developments bring about spatial variation and change over time.
- Conduct fieldwork exercises to develop our understanding and ability to observe, measure, record and present data and develop these skills progressively throughout the year groups.
- Can communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.
- Can interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).