



St Agatha's Catholic Primary School

St Agatha's Drive
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey
KT2 5TY

020 8546 3879

020 8974 6978

office@stagathas.school

www.stagathas.school

Geography Policy

Name of Policy Author: Luke van de Wiel

Date: February 2023

Date of Review: February 2025

Review Requirements: every 2 years

Statutory Policy? No

To be Completed for Policies that Governors Need to Sign off

Governor Committee:

Signature:



MISSION STATEMENT

The life of St Agatha's School is centred on our Catholic faith, in which we proclaim the Gospel values such as love, peace and justice which influence all our activities and relationships.

We value and encourage the uniqueness of each child and recognise that everyone has a positive contribution to make to the life of the school community.

We value worshipping and celebrating together, sharing our Christian witness and building upon the foundations already established at home where parents are the first educators of their children.

We aim to;

- encourage the spiritual development and prayer life of each child and help them to develop their relationship with God
- offer a place where differences and problems are talked through and prayed through together and where success is shared and celebrated
- provide a secure and happy environment where quality teaching and learning can take place
- deliver a curriculum that meets the intellectual, physical and creative needs of each child as well as delivering spiritual, emotional and pastoral care
- foster respect for, and recognise the rights of, others regardless of gender, race or ability and to offer equal opportunities to all
- value the contribution of home, school, parish, community and diocese in our daily lives

*WHAT WE ARE IS GOD'S GIFT TO US WHAT WE
BECOME IS OUR GIFT TO GOD*

Introduction

Geography is not simply being able to name countries and point to them on a map. Geography is the understanding of both the physical and the human world. The rich complexity of how everything and everyone on the planet are linked together.

At St Agatha's we provide every child with the opportunity to develop their geographical skills, knowledge and enquiry through a rich and engaging curriculum. We encourage our children to explore and question the world around them and develop their curiosity. We strive to provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to understand the world.

Aims

The overarching aims in geography are to develop children's;

- Geographical enquiry
- Skills
- Knowledge

In order to achieve these aims we provide the following:

- A stimulating, challenging and supportive learning environment.
- Enjoyable and engaging learning opportunities.
- Out of classroom learning to develop mapping and fieldwork skills.
- Suitable resources to develop mapping skills and locational knowledge.
- Exposure to evocative images, case studies and stories.

The Geography Curriculum

Geography teaching at St. Agatha's Primary School meets all the relevant statutory requirements for Key Stages 1 and 2 and for Early Years Foundation Stage. The Key Stage 1 and 2 objectives are outlined in the National Curriculum Programme of Study 2014. The Early Years Foundation Stage objectives are outlined in the Understanding of the World section of the Early Learning Goals.

Teaching and learning

One term will focus on skills and knowledge such as map work and locational knowledge. One term will focus on a cross curricular project, exploring the interconnectivity of geography. One term will give the opportunity to revise and consolidate the key geographical skills and knowledge.

During lessons, a strong emphasis is placed on the correct use of geographical terms. Whenever places are being discussed children are shown where the place is, on a map, to develop locational knowledge. Opportunities are given for out of classroom learning to develop mapping and fieldwork skills.

All geography lessons will be carried out in line with the school's health and safety policy (see school website). When fieldwork takes children off site, then a risk assessment will be undertaken to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and helpers.

Resources

Every class in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 have a globe or world map in their classrooms and access to age appropriate atlases. Classes also have a range of fiction and non-fiction texts relating to the location or process being studied. Within the school environment, there are various displays (both permanent and temporary) that show geographical learning. There are various maps throughout the school varying from global to local.

Equal opportunities and inclusion

All staff at St Agatha's ensure that all children have equal access to geography teaching,

opportunities and resources irrespective of gender, religion, ethnicity or ability.

Geography is taught in line with the school's equal opportunities policy (see school website). Class teachers differentiate lessons to meet the learning needs of all children in the class.

Lower attaining children will be challenged through activities, which are scaffolded to enable them to consolidate their understanding and succeed. Children working at a higher level will receive tasks relevant to the year group's lesson objective, but at a greater depth and complexity, such as thinking about the wider implications or global variations of a concept.

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

If a child has an Educational Healthcare Plan, geography will be taught in a way that suits that child and in conjunction with their needs set out in their plan. The learning needs of children on the school's SEND register will be taken into account so that they can access the curriculum fully. When assessing SEND children, the assessments will be carried out in a way that suits the individual child so that no barrier will be put in place to prevent them expressing their ideas.

Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

The learning needs of children currently on the PPG register, and those who were on it in the recent past (previous 6 years), will be met regardless of their ability in the class. Support will be given to extend their knowledge so that their status on the PPG register will not be detrimental to their achieving their full potential.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Children for whom English is an additional language will be supported in class as needed. This support may come from specifically designed tasks, from working with a member of staff, from working with other pupils or from the resources they use. Strategies such as these are used to help them learn geographical vocabulary, skills and concepts in English. This, in turn, will help to strengthen any knowledge that they may have in their first language. When being assessed, EAL children may be given different tasks to non-EAL children in order to help them express their ideas as fully as possible.

Home Learning

During the term with a specific geography cross-curricular project, there will be home learning tasks assigned on Teams. The knowledge organisers for the geography projects will also be available via Teams.

Marking and feedback

Each piece of geography work will be marked in line with the school's marking and feedback policy, which is available on the school's website. The role of marking is to provide feedback in order to move children's learning forward. Children are encouraged to respond to feedback where appropriate.

Cross curricular links

Geography as a subject has a great potential for cross curricular links with other subjects and staff take every opportunity to exploit this, giving more context to geographical understanding and allowing for more coverage.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership team, Geography Subject Leader and linked governors monitor the subject through pupil voice, learning walks and looking at children's books.