

Intent, Implementation and Impact of Geography at St Paul's

Intent

At St Paul's, our core intent for Geography is to cultivate well-rounded individuals who are not only geographically knowledgeable but also possess strong character traits and a deep appreciation for our planet. We embrace a truly holistic approach to Geography, dedicated to inspiring children to become curious, informed, and responsible global citizens with a profound love for the world. Our aim is to comprehensively meet and exceed National Curriculum objectives, ensuring every child gains a deep understanding of human and physical geography, develops essential geographical skills, and cultivates a lifelong fascination with diverse places, cultures, and the intricate relationship between humans and the environment. We strive to foster critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment to environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

Implementation

Our implementation of this comprehensive vision is dynamic and deeply integrated into daily school life. We deliver a rich and varied Geography curriculum that meticulously covers all National Curriculum objectives, ensuring children develop locational knowledge, understanding of human and physical features, and competence in geographical skills like mapping and data analysis. To ignite a lifelong love of learning about the world, lessons are designed to be engaging, inclusive, and thought-provoking, incorporating diverse resources from atlases and GIS tools to current global news. Our commitment to sustainability and global citizenship is exemplified through active engagement in environmental initiatives, such as local clean-up projects or school-wide recycling campaigns, and by exploring global issues and their local impacts. We actively embed opportunities for active geographical learning through local fieldwork experiences where children collect and interpret data, hands-on mapping exercises, and engaging discussions and debates on complex global challenges like climate change or resource management. Crucially, our school vision of "Speech, Conduct, and Love" underpins all our geographical activities. We explicitly encourage pupils to use clear language for presenting findings and respectful dialogue when discussing sensitive global issues ("Speech"), model and reinforce determination in research, accuracy in data collection, and responsible environmental actions ("Conduct"), and cultivate an inclusive, empathetic, and passionate environment where all children feel valued and motivated to explore the world's wonders and challenges ("Love").

Impact

The impact of this integrated and holistic approach is profound and far-reaching, shaping our pupils into confident, capable, and compassionate global citizens. Children not only consistently meet and often exceed national standards in geographical knowledge and skills, but they also genuinely enjoy learning about the world, often choosing to explore geographical topics independently. They develop a strong understanding of global issues and their local connections, making informed choices about environmental responsibility and sustainable living. Active learning opportunities through fieldwork and discussions enhance their critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and ability to interpret complex information. Our focus on "Speech, Conduct, and Love" ensures that pupils become confident communicators, capable of presenting geographical ideas effectively and engaging in respectful, informed debates. They exhibit impressive determination in their geographical enquiries and a 'can-do' attitude when tackling challenging concepts. Ultimately, our Geography program results in pupils who not only excel academically in the subject but also grow into highly compassionate, responsible individuals who act with integrity, show profound respect for diverse cultures and environments, and are equipped with the knowledge and passion to become proactive stewards of our planet.