

St Michael's CE (VC) First School

Geography

INTENT

'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.'

Psalm 118:24

The intention of the Geography Curriculum at St Michael's First School, is to help children to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, and their place within it.

Through our teaching, we will aim to inspire children's natural curiosity to inspire them to explore the world around them and the people that live in it.

We will provide a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, designed to develop knowledge, skills and an understanding of concepts that are progressive as well as transferable. As pupils progress through school, their growing knowledge about the world around them helps them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and the formation and use of landscapes and environments.

We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area, beginning with our wonderful school grounds and then beyond into Stone, the surrounding areas and Staffordshire. This will then expand into the wider world.

Through fieldwork, we will improve children's geographical vocabulary, map skills and knowledge. As the children progress through school, we will plan for and provide opportunities for consolidation, challenge and variety to ensure interest and progress in the subject.

IMPLEMENTATION

At St Michael's we have worked together, to produce a Geography curriculum map to enable us to be certain that:

- All teachers have a good understanding of what subject knowledge should be taught when and why, and how this allows progression within a year group, across year groups and key stages
- Our planning and teaching across the school from Nursery to Year 4, ensures appropriate coverage of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and Key Stage 1 and 2 programmes of study (including feeding into the Geography Curriculum of our local middle schools)
- All staff are aware of the importance of teaching subject specific vocabulary and asking enquiry based questions
- We are providing opportunities for our pupils to revisit and consolidate key learning and skills, as well as ensuring that there is clear progression across year groups and key stages
- Teachers are able to assess pupil's knowledge and understanding at the end of each unit of work, to ensure we are supporting all pupils to reach their full potential.

Our Geography Curriculum Map is flexible enough to allow us to differentiate units of work to recognise the needs of different cohorts, follow pupil's interests, create new links within topics and address new ideas and issues as they may arise. We use carefully planned for 'Wow' days and weeks and our 'Journey around the World' to further enhance our Geography teaching and learning, and engage pupils in new and exciting ways. These also offer an opportunity for parents to engage with the school and their child's learning, alongside appropriate curriculum themed home learning tasks.

At St Michael's we value outdoor education, and where possible we take our learning in Geography outdoors. From Nursery, our children are given the opportunity to explore their classroom, school and its wonderful grounds to help them to develop a solid understanding of their place in the world. As the children progress through school, we use local experts, fieldwork, educational visits and residential trips to consolidate and broaden this sense of place within their locality and beyond. This allows the children to develop an understanding of the human and physical geography of our local area, enabling them to confidently understand and compare geographical similarities and differences between their place in the world and others.

IMPACT

Pupils will leave St Michael's with a solid understanding of their place in the world. They will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm needed to start them on their journey to becoming lifelong learners in Geography, as well as being responsible and considerate citizens of the world. All children will realise that they have choices to make in the world, developing a positive commitment to the environment and the future of the planet. Our well planned teaching, learning and assessment opportunities, and our high expectations, will support and enable all pupils to reach their full potential and enable them to speak confidently about their geography learning, skills and knowledge.