

Geography

Intent - What are we trying to achieve for our children in Geography?

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Geography is essential in fostering a deep understanding of the natural and human features of our world. Through our knowledge-rich curriculum, children are provided with a wide range of opportunities to study and understand the world around them, as well as their own impact and place within it. Geographical knowledge and skills are taught through an exciting and engaging topic-based curriculum that is tailored to suit the interests of the children, reflects current issues and the local context, as well as featuring the non-negotiable units taken from the National Curriculum. We aim to teach skills that not only develop children into accomplished geographers, but are also transferable across the curriculum. This includes applying their learning to their own social, moral, ethical, cultural and spiritual development.

We seek to ignite a desire to learn more about the incredible world in which we live, how it has come together and the wonderful diversity of human beings that is reflected in our own community. We aim to inspire curiosity and fascination about the world's key physical and human processes, including the formation and use of landscapes and environments, and an understanding of how these interact and change over time. We have developed a thorough and ambitious curriculum that is built up term by term and year by year. This is designed to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to make excellent progress, both academically and personally, and is given the chance to truly be the best that they can be.

Implementation - How is the curriculum delivered?

At St Patrick's, our units are selected from the National Curriculum and cover an extensive programme of study based on Physical Geography, Environmental Geography, Human Geography and Local Area Geography. These units are arranged into cross-curricular topics, whereby Geography is taught alongside English, History and other subjects that focus on a particular theme. The selection process for these topics is based upon the interests of the children, units of study in other curriculum areas and their relevance to our children's own lives within their own local contexts. The teaching and learning of Geography skills is just as important as the teaching and learning of Geography knowledge.

Each topic is selected in order to develop children's understanding of how the knowledge they have acquired is related to them as individuals within their own local context. Both the knowledge and skills required for proficient understanding of the topic is carefully identified and then taught through engaging, immersive and creative lessons. During the entry point of each new unit, the children are asked to identify what they already know about it, as well as considering what they would like to find out. Teachers then use this to develop a thorough and enquiry-based unit lead by the children's curiosity. Each topic is taught in an exciting way in order to help knowledge 'stick'; this includes the use of artefacts, maps, information books, use of Computing, themed 'in-day' and 'out-days' and educational visits, making use of all London has to offer.

Our curriculum celebrates the diversity of the local community and we are passionate about promoting a culture which values a variety of ideas for the benefit of our pupils and the community we serve. Through our chosen topics, geography is examined through different perspectives and lenses, including those that are particular to the personal experiences of our students. We also value inclusion and ensure that our pupils are given access to a wide pool of knowledge, skills and understanding whatever their background or ability level. Emphasis is placed upon the importance of discussion and promoting a rich vocabulary, through both modelling and scaffolding, to ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all. We aim to bring learning to life, both in the classroom and outside, we have also try to make full use of the local area and opportunities for outdoor learning.

Impact - What difference is the curriculum making? How do you know whether pupils know what you think they know?

Art and design learning is loved by teachers and pupils across school. Teachers have higher expectations and more quality evidence can be presented in a variety of ways. All children use technical vocabulary accurately and pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified. Children improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them, and their impact through art and design on the world. Children will become more confident in analysing their work and giving their opinion on their own and other works of art. Children show competences in improving their resilience and perseverance by continually evaluating and improving their work. All children in school can speak confidently about their art and design work and their skills.

