

Geography Curriculum at St Eanswythe's

Rationale and National Curriculum Coverage

Taken from the National Curriculum in England:

'Purpose of study:

A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.'

Rationale:

Geography is the study of physical and human environment through the processes, which shape it and the people who live in it. It is a crucial subject to help children to understand their links with the effects on, the natural world and their links with other people in the wider world. It provides a key context in which to involve pupils with environmental sustainability and help them to grow up as responsible citizens.

This policy has been developed with the geographical site and situation of the school in mind. Our catchment area for pupils is wide so we encompass this by the end of Key Stage 2 as our local area. We follow the National Curriculum for Geography. We use the Oak National Academy scheme to support our teaching of Geography.

Intent:

The Oak National Academy Geography curriculum is knowledge rich. This means the knowledge children will gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and builds over time. As our children work through the geography curriculum they will know more, understand more about their local area, the UK, Europe and the World around them. A good geographical understanding relies on firm foundations of knowledge and skills. The skills our curriculum develops, like the knowledge, are specified, ordered coherently and progress over time. This curriculum structure helps pupils to deepen their understanding of physical and human geographical processes, fostering curiosity and fascination for the world we live in.

Implementation:

Conceptual understanding is at the heart of our curriculum. Children will learn about key geographical concepts such as place, space, the environment and interconnection. Over time, working through an essential process of elaboration, children will add to their conceptual understanding with many examples of geographical knowledge in context. Children will become more skilled at answering questions such as; what is it like to live in this place? What are the challenges of this environment? How have people changed this landscape over time? Children will gain an understanding of what geographers do, what they look for and what they may say about a place.

In the Early Years at St Eanswythe's, children begin to develop their geographical understanding through the *Understanding the World* area of learning. Across our carefully planned topics, pupils explore their environment, talk about places that are special to them, and begin to understand their community and the wider world. In "Me and My Community," children learn about people who help us in Folkestone and the important places in our town, such as the church, hospital, post office, and fire station. Through "Celebrations," they explore different cultures and festivals, comparing how people around the world live, celebrate, and come together. Topics like "Dinosaurs" and "Space" inspire curiosity about different environments and landscapes, both real and imagined. In "The Seaside," our local coast is a focus for learning about land and sea, with children discovering marine life, beach features, and the importance of looking after our oceans. The topic "Journeys" helps children talk about the places they visit, near and far, and think about their own journey into Year 1, developing an early sense of direction, travel, and belonging. These experiences lay the foundation for future geographical learning by encouraging children to observe, compare, and describe the world around them.

Our KS1 Geography curriculum, supported by Oak National Academy resources, is designed to help children explore and understand their locality of Folkestone, the UK, and global environments through engaging, purposeful learning.

Our Geography curriculum in KS1 aims to:

- Develop a strong sense of identity by exploring the local area of Folkestone, including its physical and human features.
- Introduce children to the wider world, including the continents, oceans, the UK, and polar regions.
- Build early geographical skills such as map reading, observation, and vocabulary use.
- Encourage children to reflect on what makes places special and different.
- Foster responsibility and care for the environment, both locally and globally.

These aims are aligned with the National Curriculum for Geography in Key Stage 1.

Geography is taught weekly, three terms a year in years 1-6. Lessons are based on Oak National Academy materials and adapted to include:

- First-hand experiences in the Folkestone area, including the Harbour Arm, the Leas, and local green spaces.
- Use of maps, aerial photographs, and digital tools.
- Class discussions to support enquiry and reasoning skills.
- Creative and cross-curricular opportunities, especially links with History, Art, and Literacy.

Our Key Stage 2 Geography curriculum is designed to build on pupils' foundational knowledge from KS1 and broaden their understanding of the physical and human world. Through the carefully sequenced Oak National Academy units, pupils explore local, national, and global geographical concepts that help them understand their place in the world and the responsibilities they share in shaping its future.

Folkestone's coastal and urban setting provides rich opportunities for fieldwork and enquiry, helping children apply learning to their own experiences and surroundings.

Our KS2 Geography curriculum aims to:

- Deepen understanding of physical and human geography and how they interact.
- Develop and apply key geographical skills such as map reading, data interpretation, and fieldwork.
- Foster global awareness through the study of contrasting regions and environments.
- Encourage critical thinking about sustainability, natural resources, and human impact.
- Equip children with vocabulary and concepts to express geographical understanding clearly.

These aims are rooted in the National Curriculum for Geography in Key Stage 2.

Using Oak National Academy's progressive KS2 geography units, we provide a broad, engaging curriculum that moves from local enquiry to global understanding.

The local area is utilised to achieve the desired outcomes, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practice. This begins in Year R where pupils have multiple trips in our locality. In Folkestone we are very lucky to have the seaside to explore with its changing coastline and so visits to the beach and the sands are an excellent aid to the children's learning. Fieldwork is paramount to learning. We encourage trips in all classes to reinforce the children's learning. Our trips have included; various locations in Folkestone, London, Kew Gardens, Dover Castle and Walmer Castle, just to name a few.

Impact:

We aim for our pupils to be confident geographers who are able to discuss their learning and make links where appropriate between both human and physical geography to explain processes that impact the world around us.

Outcomes in geography books evidence a broad and balanced geography curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key knowledge. Staff conduct book looks and speak to pupils to ensure that the progression of knowledge, vocabulary and skills is there both within the year and across year groups.

Pupils have a quiz at the end of each unit, recorded in the back of books, which serves to assess pupils' knowledge and understanding. Staff will then use these outcomes in future starters or future units of geography to address any misunderstandings. Anything beyond that will be looked at by the Geography Lead to decide whether adjustments to the curriculum need to be implemented to ensure pupils remember and understand the content.

Our geography curriculum equips pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people and environments. We have seen that arming children with powerful knowledge about the world around them helps them to develop a love for the subject of geography and also recognise their own role in becoming a responsible global citizen. St Eanswythe's pledge is for all our children to get excited about geography and thrive on the knowledge they hold. To give the children the tools they need to take along on their learning journey not just through primary school but throughout their lives.