Geography Policy

St Peter's Church of England Primary School
September 2026

Our Vision for Geography

We aspire to nurture curious, reflective and informed geographers.

Guided by our Christian vision and rooted in the words of James 2:18, "*I will show you my faith by my actions,*" we believe geography is not only about developing geographical knowledge, skills and understanding, but also about living out our faith through responsible action.

Through our engaging and enquiry-led geography curriculum, our children develop secure geographical knowledge, strong fieldwork skills and a rich understanding of both human and physical geography. They are encouraged to ask thoughtful questions, explore diverse communities and consider their role within a globally connected world.

We aspire to excellence by fostering curiosity about the Earth and its people, promoting critical thinking and a lifelong love of discovery. We care by developing compassion, respect and stewardship for the environments and communities we study. We empower our pupils to be courageous advocates, standing up for justice, sustainability and positive change, just as Jesus did

Intent

At St Peter's Church of England Primary School, we aim to provide a high-quality geography education that inspires curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with pupils for life.

Our curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum whilst reflecting the values and vision of St Peter's Church of England Primary School.

Our curriculum is delivered through the progressive and enquiry-based Mrs Mactivity Geography Scheme. Through carefully sequenced learning, pupils develop a secure understanding of both physical and human geography whilst building geographical knowledge and skills over time.

Through our geography curriculum, children will develop:

- Secure knowledge of key geographical concepts including place, space, scale, interdependence and environmental interaction.
- Strong map-reading, atlas and fieldwork skills.
- An understanding of diverse cultures, communities and environments.
- The ability to analyse information, evaluate evidence and think critically.
- Knowledge of environmental issues and sustainability.
- Respect for cultural diversity and global citizenship.
- Confidence in discussing and debating geographical issues using subject-specific vocabulary.

Our curriculum enables pupils to understand the connections between people, places and environments whilst encouraging them to recognise their responsibilities as global citizens and stewards of God's world.

Implementation

Our Enquiry Approach

Our Geography curriculum is delivered through the engaging and progressive Mrs Mactivity scheme, which provides a carefully sequenced framework of knowledge and skills from EYFS to Year 6.

Learning is rooted in an enquiry-based approach where pupils:

- Ask geographical questions.
- Investigate evidence.
- Interpret maps, photographs and data.
- Analyse patterns and relationships.
- Draw informed conclusions.
- Reflect upon geographical issues and their significance.

Knowledge and skills are deliberately built upon year by year so that children develop a deeper understanding of geographical concepts and increasingly sophisticated geographical thinking.

Regular opportunities for retrieval practice support pupils in remembering more over time, strengthening long-term retention and enabling them to make meaningful connections between different areas of learning.

Oracy in Geography

Oracy is a key strength within our geography curriculum.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Articulate their thinking clearly.
- Use subject-specific vocabulary accurately.
- Engage in purposeful discussion and debate.
- Explain and justify their opinions.
- Challenge ideas respectfully.
- Present findings confidently to a range of audiences.

Through talk partners, collaborative enquiry, presentations and reflective dialogue, children learn to communicate geographical understanding with clarity and confidence.

Fieldwork and Real-World Learning

Fieldwork is an integral part of our geography curriculum and provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to explore geographical concepts first-hand.

Children engage in:

- Local area studies.
- Observational fieldwork.
- Environmental surveys.
- Map work.

- Data collection and analysis.
- Decision-making activities.

These experiences allow pupils to apply classroom learning to real-life contexts and develop practical geographical skills.

We also utilise Digimap for Schools to enhance geographical learning and develop pupils' digital mapping skills. Through Digimap, children access a range of interactive maps and mapping tools, enabling them to explore locations at different scales, analyse geographical features, compare places and create their own maps. This supports the development of locational knowledge, fieldwork skills and spatial awareness across the geography curriculum.

Geography Across the Curriculum

Geography is enriched through meaningful links with other areas of learning. Pupils apply and develop their geographical knowledge and skills across the curriculum, helping them to make connections and deepen their understanding of the world.

- **English:** Pupils develop geographical vocabulary, discuss and debate geographical issues, present findings and write for a range of purposes linked to geographical enquiries.
- **Mathematics:** Children collect, record and interpret data, use coordinates, measure distances and analyse patterns through geographical investigations.
- **Science:** Links are made through the study of weather, climate, environmental change, habitats and sustainability.
- **History:** Pupils explore how places change over time and consider the impact of historical events on people and environments.
- **Computing:** Digital technologies, including Digimap for Schools, are used to develop mapping skills, interpret geographical information and support fieldwork investigations.
- **Religious Education and Collective Worship:** Children reflect on stewardship, responsibility, justice and care for God's world, making connections with our Christian vision and values.
- **Personal Development:** Geography develops pupils' awareness of diversity, global citizenship and their role in creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

These cross-curricular connections help pupils see the relevance of geography in everyday life and develop a deeper understanding of the interconnected nature of people, places and environments.

Current events, sustainability issues and global challenges are explored where relevant, helping pupils apply their geographical understanding to the wider world and recognise the impact of human actions on people, places and environments.

Spiritual Development through Geography

Geography provides rich opportunities for spiritual development as pupils encounter the awe and wonder of the world around them.

Through the study of diverse landscapes, natural phenomena and global communities, pupils are encouraged to reflect on the beauty, complexity and fragility of our planet. They explore questions of fairness, stewardship, responsibility and sustainability whilst considering how their actions can make a positive difference.

In line with our Christian vision, children are encouraged to see themselves as caretakers of the Earth, demonstrating compassion, courage and integrity in the way they care for people and the environment.

Through discussion, reflection and enquiry, geography helps pupils develop not only knowledge and skills but also a deeper sense of purpose, understanding that faith can be shown through action in caring for God's world.

Impact

The impact of our geography curriculum is evident in pupils who are curious, knowledgeable and responsible geographers.

Children will:

- Demonstrate secure geographical knowledge, understanding and fieldwork skills.
- Use geographical vocabulary accurately and confidently.
- Apply fieldwork and mapping skills effectively.
- Make links between physical and human geography.
- Think critically about geographical issues.
- Show respect and understanding for diverse cultures and communities.
- Understand the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility.
- Articulate their learning confidently through speaking, discussion and presentation.
- Demonstrate the school values of Aspire, Care and Empower through their understanding of the world and their role within it.

We aim for pupils to leave St Peter's as informed, compassionate and empowered global citizens who are prepared to contribute positively to their communities and wider society.

How We Work and Evidence Our Learning

In Geography, we ensure learning is purposeful, progressive and clearly evidenced.

Learning is demonstrated through:

- Written explanations and responses.
- Annotated maps and diagrams.
- Fieldwork observations and surveys.
- Data collection and interpretation.
- Enquiry outcomes.
- Retrieval activities and quizzes.
- Vocabulary development.
- Presentations and discussions.
- Collaborative learning tasks.

Seesaw may be used to capture and celebrate learning through photographs, videos, voice recordings and examples of collaborative enquiry. These records provide valuable evidence of learning, particularly fieldwork and oracy outcomes.

Assessment is an ongoing process that draws upon teacher observations, pupil discussions, recorded work, retrieval activities and end-of-unit outcomes. Assessment judgements are recorded on Insights against agreed geography statements, enabling pupil progress and attainment to be monitored over time and informing future teaching, support and challenge. Assessment information is used to ensure pupils are making progress through the carefully sequenced knowledge and skills progression within the curriculum.