

## **GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM GUIDANCE**

*“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?”*

*Michael Palin 2007 – British Actor and travel writer*

### **Geography Intent**

We see geography as a means of allowing children to understand the world and their place and responsibility within it. We want children to be curious about the world around them and value the diversity of it in both its natural and man-made forms, recognising the struggle and courage of people and nature to achieve the legacy which exists now. We aim to equip our children with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As our children progress through school, we aim to ensure their growing knowledge about the world deepens through their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and of the formation of landscape and environments. As geographers, our children will develop a knowledge of places throughout the world recognising how interconnected the people of the world are; of the world's structure as land masses, continents and countries; an understanding of maps and have opportunities to work as practical geographers outside the classroom. We aim to foster reliance and respect as well as a deep interest and excitement in the world, and the possibilities, along with rights and responsibilities to explore and influence it in a responsible way.



*“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world.”*

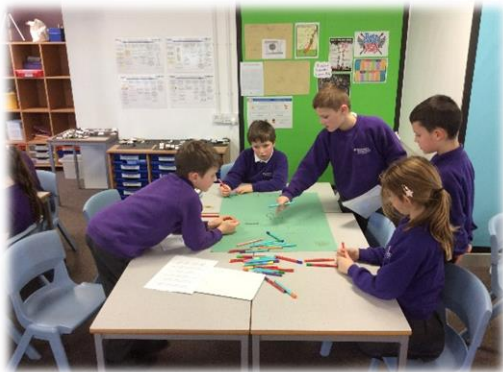
*Barack Obama – American President 2009-2017*

## Geography Implementation

At St. Andrew's, geography is taught as a discrete subject throughout the year although, wherever possible, subject links are exploited which often creates more opportunities for depth and rigour in children's understanding. We use the National Curriculum 2014 and planning from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership to form the basis of our geography curriculum which is carefully mapped out to ensure a clear progression of knowledge, skills and vocabulary across the primary range. For each unit of learning, the geographical knowledge is identified and shared with the children and parents as a 'Knowledge Organiser'.

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used in geography:

- Active learning – using discussions, investigations and role play to investigate real-life situations or local issues.
- Enquiry learning – asking and answering geographical questions and thinking as a geographer.
- Using of a variety of data, such as maps and globes, statistics, graphs, pictures and aerial photographs.
- Using ICT to enhance learning such as when investigating a current issue.
- Encouraging visits and visitors – whenever possible we use first hand direct fieldwork experience to enhance learning. This may be in the schools immediate locality or further afield. It may involve expert visitors coming into school.
- Communication of findings in a variety of ways including photographic, written, visual, oral, map and graph-making with a real audience whenever possible.
- Using national and international events as they occur to keep geography real and relevant.



## Geography Impact

The impact of our teaching in geography is recognised through a range of formative assessment strategies. These include observation and questioning during lessons; feedback on children's written work and self and peer assessment against pre-agreed success criteria. These assessments inform future lessons.

The impact is also evident in presentations of learning to peers, parents or the wider community where the children share their learning.

In a wider sense we see the impact of geography as children become more adept at reasoning, asking questions, searching for reasons, understanding balanced arguments, backing opinion with evidence and empathising with others as well as having a responsible attitude to the world around them and their role as custodians of it ... in other words acting as geographers.



*“Geography is the study of earth as the home of people”*  
*By Yu Fi Tan Chinese - philanthropist 1927-2002*