Geography

'Without Geography you're nowhere.'
Jimmy Buffett

Subject Vision and Values

At the Nightingale Federation, we actively encourage children to be inquisitive and foster a healthy curiosity about the world around them. We aim to develop children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to investigate ideas and answer questions confidently. We nurture their enthusiasm when they notice changes and patterns and expect all children to be respectful of other cultures and customs. Through geography children will deepen their appreciation of their faith and understand that they are called to look after and protect the world God has given us. Geography lessons will link to other areas of learning wherever possible. We hope the children will gain interest, knowledge and fascination in the wider world around them and be inspired to explore further whether virtually or through travel in later life.

The aims and objectives of Geography are in line with the National Curriculum and we aim to ensure children:

- are inspired to discover more about the world
- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to: collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes and interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Intent

Our Geography curriculum offers children a powerful way of seeing the world. It aims to inspire our pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, in order to enthuse them as global citizens. Geography isn't just places on a map; it's global connections and incredible creatures. It's people and cultures, economics and politics. It is essential to understanding our interconnected world. Throughout the curriculum space, place and scale are at the heart of the subject, and embedding these concepts into lessons will enable children to continue on their journey to become critical geographical thinkers. Children are able to view the world through the lens of our Christian values and how these might be used to understand the geographical issues which face their generation and know appropriate responses to them, such as informed choice regarding current environmental issues e.g., limiting the use of plastics. Objectives for lessons are underpinned by the National Curriculum.

Implementation:

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. We ensure that geography has the same importance given to it as the core subjects, as we feel this is important in enabling all children gain 'real-life' experiences. It can be studied contextually within a larger unit of study deepening understanding through cross-curricular links.

In our Early Years:
Early Years explores geographical themes and content through the Understanding of the World strand of the EYFS curriculum. This involves guiding the children to develop a sense of their physical world, as well as their community, through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

In Key Stage One pupils are taught geographical knowledge and skills related to the following units:
Year One: My Local Area, The United Kingdom
Year Two: Planet Earth, Life in Kenya
In Lower Key Stage Two pupils are taught geographical knowledge and skills related to the following units:
Year Three: Settlement and Land Use in the United Kingdom, European Case Study: Italy, Climate Zones and Biomes
Year Four: Rivers and Rainforests of The Amazon, The USA
In Upper Key Stage Two pupils are taught geographical knowledge and skills related to the following units:
Year Five: Asia: Volcanoes and Earthquakes
Year Six: Global Challenges, Mapping the World

Impact

Through our geography curriculum we aim to ensure children will:

- Be able to extend their geographical vocabulary and use this to make comments, debate ideas and ask questions whilst reflecting on knowledge and explaining understanding
- Work collaboratively and practically to research, explore and investigate
- Gain a wide variety of skills linked to both geographical knowledge and understanding, and the wider curriculum

As an inclusive school, we recognise the need to tailor our approach to support children with Special Educational Needs as well as those who would benefit from further enrichment and challenge. We strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry-based learning opportunities which enable our children to let their lights shine. Emphasis is placed on investigative learning opportunities to help children gain a coherent knowledge of understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school.

Spiritual Development

Through Geography across the Nightingale Federation, we enable spiritual development by exposing children to a wide range of cultures, different from their own, from all over the world. We aim to inspire awe and wonder in them through a range of learning experiences. Children will demonstrate curiosity and open mindfulness when exploring these cultures and be inspired to ask questions and research deeper. They will learn to be considerate of these cultures and different spiritual beliefs.

Cultural Capital links to Geography

At the Nightingale Federation we believe that cultural capital gives a student power. It helps them achieve their goals, be successful and allows them to rise up the social ladder without necessarily having wealth or financial capital. We achieve this by:

- providing children with opportunities across the school to explore the school environment, the local area and further afield through day trips and residential visits. These include a trip to the local river, walks around the village, the creation of aerial maps and exploration of geographical features.
- encouraging members of the community to visit the school to talk about their experiences abroad.
- having focused events, displays and home learning activities.