

What does Geography look like at Vicarage Primary School?

At Vicarage Primary School our aims are to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for Geography; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum; ensuring the progressive development of geographical concepts, knowledge and skills, so they can make sense of the world around them.

The aims of teaching geography in our school are:

- ✓ To inspire pupils' curiosity to discover more about the world
- ✓ To enable pupils' to know about the location of the world's continents, countries, cities, seas and oceans.
- ✓ To develop in pupils' the skills of interpreting a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- ✓ To help children understand how the human and physical features of a place shapes its location and can change over time.
- ✓ To communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Geography is taught in discreet lessons, this means that pupils are able to develop depth in their knowledge and skills over the duration of each of their Geography topics. Cross curricular outcomes in geography are specifically planned for, with strong links between geography and the wider curriculum subjects.

Our Geography curriculum is based on four key concepts,
Investigate Space and Location
Investigating Patterns and Change
Investigating Scale and Size
Investigating Sustainability

These key concepts are the 'big ideas' which run as threads through the curriculum. The same key concepts are explored and revisited in each unit of work in every year group. This enables pupils to build on prior knowledge, deepen their contextual knowledge and always working towards the bigger picture of achievement at the end of each year group or phase.

What do the children enjoy about Geography at Vicarage Primary School?

"What I have enjoyed most is having the opportunity to find out more about the world and learn about volcanoes and the movement of tectonic plates that lead to earthquakes."

"At school I learn more about the different countries in the world and how mountains are created."

Geography at Vicarage School

Examples of learning and enrichment activities at Vicarage Primary School.

Year 3 take part in Spain Day workshop where they learn about and become mini-experts in identifying where Spain is in relation to the world, surrounding countries and many of its traditions.

We take part in the Geography Bee with local schools in Newham borough. Pupils revise, learn, and apply a great deal of knowledge ranging from recognising flags, capital cities and current geographical news.

Educational visits are planned effectively throughout the year to enhance what pupils are learning in class.

Reasons for learning Geography?

We inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Geography lessons enable pupils to gain skills for example map reading, which is a vital learning tool that can be called upon throughout their life.

An awareness of the wider world can also fire the imagination and therefore encourage the desire to explore our planet. Pupils start by learning about their home community, region, country, continent, and in turn gain more experience. This in turn would expose the pupils to a variety of cultures around the world. These experiences should ultimately encourage tolerance and respect for other countries, peoples and cultures around the world.

Learning Geography encourages self-awareness and responsibility towards the positive future of our world. It is important that pupils of this generation recognise their place in an ever-growing world population. They need to be aware of climate change and the impact that their everyday actions would create.

Geography also gives pupils the tools to gain an understanding of international matters, multicultural concerns, and environmental matters. All this information allows them to integrate multiple concepts from humanities, social science, and science, and apply critical thinking to dealing with current issues at the local, national and international level.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- ✓ **Pupil conferencing** – Are children happy, engaged, motivated to do well, challenged? Do they know more? Can they remember more?
- ✓ **Assessment** – Exit quiz completed at the end of each topic to assess pupil's understanding, knowledge and skills. The information from assessments will be used to inform leaders of school improvements or skills that need to be further enhanced.
- ✓ **Book Looks** – Are all children making at least sufficient progress from their various starting points?
Images and videos of pupil's practical learning.
- ✓ **Lesson Visits** – Quality of teaching and learning is good to outstanding
- ✓ **Parent surveys** – Are parents happy with the curriculum we provide, if not – how can we improve?
- ✓ **Subject portfolio** – Can you see progression of skills and knowledge across the school? Is the curriculum ambitious and goes beyond the National Curriculum?