



# Geography Curriculum



**Intent:** At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, our geography curriculum aims to inspire pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, developing a deep understanding of both local and global environments.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we encourage children to recognise their responsibility as stewards of God's creation, developing respect, compassion and care for the world around them. Through engaging and enquiry-led learning, pupils explore the relationships between people, places and environments, helping them to understand their role within an interconnected world.

Our curriculum is taught through four key areas:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

We aim for pupils to:

- Develop a secure understanding of diverse places, people and environments
- Understand how physical and human processes shape the world
- Become confident in using maps, atlases, digital technologies and fieldwork skills
- Ask geographical questions, investigate and communicate findings effectively
- Develop awareness of environmental issues and sustainability
- Appreciate their local area and understand how it connects to the wider world

Through meaningful experiences and enquiry-based learning, we aim to equip children with the knowledge and skills needed to become thoughtful, informed and responsible global citizens.

**Implementation:** At St Swithun's, geography is delivered through a progressive and carefully sequenced curriculum, ensuring knowledge and geographical skills build over time. The curriculum is structured around the progressive development of:

- Place knowledge
- Locational knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical enquiry and fieldwork

Pupils revisit and deepen understanding of key concepts and skills throughout their time in school.

Children explore a wide range of geographical locations, including:

- Portsmouth and the local area
- The United Kingdom
- Europe
- North and South America
- Australia and other global regions

This helps pupils develop a growing understanding of how their local area fits within the wider world.

## Teaching Approach

Our teaching approach ensures pupils actively think and work as geographers:

- Use of enquiry questions and investigations to drive learning
- Explicit teaching of key geographical vocabulary
- Opportunities for discussion, reasoning and comparison
- Use of maps, atlases, globes and digital technologies
- Retrieval practice to strengthen understanding and recall



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Fieldwork is a central part of the geography curriculum and allows pupils to apply their learning in meaningful contexts. Children are provided with opportunities to:

- Explore and investigate the local area
- Collect, analyse and interpret geographical data
- Use maps and observational skills in real-world settings
- Compare different environments and communities

The local area is utilised to enrich learning, including opportunities linked to:

- Portsmouth and Southsea
- Coastal environments
- Human and physical features within the community

## Adaptation and Inclusion

Adaptation is embedded throughout the geography curriculum to ensure all pupils can succeed:

- Use of scaffolded enquiry questions and tasks
- Visual supports including maps, diagrams and photographs
- Vocabulary banks and sentence stems to support explanation
- Opportunities for collaborative investigation and discussion
- Practical and outdoor learning to support engagement and accessibility

Our pupil-centred approach ensures all children can develop confidence as geographers.

## Catholic Social Teaching in Geography

At St Swithun's, geography is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Pupils are encouraged to develop stewardship of creation, recognising their responsibility to care for the world and its resources. Through learning about diverse communities, environments and global issues, children develop empathy, solidarity and respect for others. Geography helps pupils understand how inequality, climate change and environmental challenges affect people differently across the world, encouraging them to think critically about justice and the common good. Through fieldwork and enquiry, pupils learn that their actions can positively impact both their local community and the wider world.

**Impact:** By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Have a secure understanding of diverse places, environments and cultures
- Understand key human and physical geographical processes
- Use maps, atlases and fieldwork skills confidently
- Ask geographical questions and communicate findings effectively
- Appreciate their local area and its place within the wider world
- Demonstrate awareness of environmental issues and sustainability

Pupils leave St Swithun's as curious, knowledgeable and responsible learners with a strong appreciation of the world around them and their role within it.

"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future"

– Theodore Roosevelt