

Geography

'A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.' – National Curriculum 2014

INTENT

Geography is about people, places and the world around us and is, by nature, an investigative subject. At St Alphege Infant School, pupils will learn about their local environment and their community as well as the wider world. Children see Geography each day as they learn to make sense of the world and move about within it and at St Alphege Infant School it is our intention to inspire our pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world around us and its people living in different locations that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We want our children to develop skills in recognising, describing, explaining, comparing and evaluating human and physical geographical features with technical vocabulary being accurately used and applied. We aim to produce independent and evaluative thinkers who have empathy for how others live to develop an awareness, respect and curiosity for different cultures and societies and the physical world around them. Children should have the opportunity to ask questions, make links, allowing them to make sense of the world around them. The curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced and differentiated, ensuring a development of knowledge and skills that are progressive throughout their time at St Alphege Infant School and also to their further education and beyond. We are committed to providing children with opportunities to investigate and make enquiries about their local area of Whitstable so that they can develop a real sense of who they are, their heritage and what makes our local areas unique and special.

IMPLEMENTATION

At St Alphege Infant school Geography is taught following the aims and content of the National Curriculum. To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in geography, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Geography is taught in termly blocks (every other term for ks1) using cross curricular links to make it relevant for the children, whilst focusing on knowledge and skills. We follow a skills progression in order to ensure curriculum coverage and in

order to develop the children's key geographical skills and understanding throughout the school. Aspects of Geography also appear within the Area of Learning called Understanding the World in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, which is the curriculum for our Reception and nursery children. A variety of resources are used to support learning including globes, maps, photographs and atlases – as well as IT resources such as Google Earth in order to also develop children's digital literacy. Teachers think carefully about the different types of resources they will use and plan tasks carefully, based on prior learning and an understanding of the children's future learning. We are fortunate that our school is in a rich environment with many diverse geographical features within a short walk. We are able to use our environment to teach children about their local area, giving them opportunities to observe and interpret a range of sources such as maps, aerial photographs and their own first hand experiences from field work. Alongside this, children are taught the differences between their area and other places both in the UK and abroad, allowing them to develop their knowledge of the world at different scales: locally, nationally and internationally. Pupils learn the difference between human and physical features, strengthening their understanding and vocabulary. Children analyse how other people and places might be different to what they know and are familiar with, allowing them to make connections whilst considering their rights and responsibilities in the world both towards other people and the environment in which they live. Throughout each topic of work, children are taught to use maps of various scales to locate different human and physical features. They are also taught how to create their own maps. Children are given various opportunities to collect data in the field and to analyse and present this using various information systems. Children also have opportunities to research places using the computer, iPads, books, pictures and photographs.

IMPACT

Our Geography Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression.

The impact of our Geography curriculum is measured in a variety of ways: questioning during lesson time, listening to child-led discussion, interviewing pupils across the school about their learning (pupil voice), summative assessment, big book looks, lesson observations and using images/videos of children's practical learning.

By end of the Geography curriculum at St Alphege, our children will:

- Have a growing knowledge of the world and their place in it.

- Have a wider vocabulary of geographical terms.
- Aspire to discover more about the world, through reading, travel or the media.
- Know that they can use their voice to express themselves and their opinions.
- Develop their geographical skills, such as, evaluation, creativity, problem solving and enquiry.