



Our Vision for Geography at St. Matthew's Primary School

Geography is a study of how the world works. It has the potential to capture the minds of children like no other subject and that is what our teachers aim for when delivering their topics. It provides an opportunity for children to recognise our local environment in relation to many other areas of our world. Allowing them to build connections between near and far places, recognising the vast amount of similarities and differences, cultures and environments share across the world. The National Curriculum (2014) states, "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."

Here at St Matthew's, our Reception children will focus on new routines in their immediate environment e.g. 'the classroom' visiting the school hall or church and understanding the locality of the school and how they get here. Children will know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. After this, they will explore map work of their own locality and that of the school, the United Kingdom and its capital cities. They will identify seasonal weather patterns and look at hot and cold areas of the globe, oceans and continents, all before they end Key Stage 1. They will begin to look at human and physical features in near and far places such as Australia (year 2 case study). The children will begin to develop fieldwork skills through creating meaningful maps of the local area.

As they move on to Key Stage 2, children will extend their knowledge to wider areas of the globe. They will look at more physical features such as mountains, natural disasters, and biomes. They will explore the impact of time zones, understand the significance of latitude and longitude as well as being able to locate different countries and their borders. Children will also study human features and economic activity, including case studies of California, Catalonia and Brazil. They will continue to develop geographical skills though comparing various maps, work with tables/data and field sketches. Children will explore the world through more abstract maps and co-ordinates and research the impact/need for sustainability and responsible tourism around the world.