

Geography is about the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people who live in them. Through learning about Geography children can make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

*“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... As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments.”* (National Curriculum of England 2014: Geography)

The aim of teaching Geography at St Joseph’s RC school is:

- To encourage and stimulate interest in the world around us.
- For children to be able to gain knowledge and understanding of the world around us.
- To encourage children to think about, investigate and ask questions about the world, the people, the places and the environment.
- To gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places.
- To help children become aware of their role and the role of others in shaping their environment.
- For children to learn graphic skills, including how to use, draw and interpret maps.
- To gain a practical understanding of geographical fieldwork.
- To develop a range of skills through the geography curriculum such as enquiry, problem solving, ICT, investigation and presentation.
- Geography starts from the child’s immediate environment and their effect on that environment. Through geography related trips and excursions, the children’s world is extended and through first hand experiences, building up their knowledge and skills. As they become able to tackle more abstract ideas they begin to study to study places around the world, thinking about what it is like to live there, how we can look after our environment and looking more closely about what our environment is like.
- In Geography we encourage asking and answering questions using different methods to gain information, including maps, fieldtrips, photographs, pictures, geographical equipment and so on. Whenever possible, the children take part in practical activities to experience ‘real’ Geography.
- Geography will also be informally thought through introducing and becoming a part of Eco-schools. Children will gain an understanding of the world around us and our job as caretakers of the world and the importance of looking after it. Children will be encouraged to take the lead in promoting Eco–schools and keeping our school green.

This year in Geography we will be focussing on different themes and topics linking these to history and other subjects in the curriculum. We will be exploring different topics in different year groups including: swamps, poles apart, India, World War 2, extreme survival, Egypt, Italy and the Romans, Britain from the air, Mexico, Walls and barricades, Britain at play, wild waters, Greece, Disaster and so on. The children have further and develop their learning of Geography through various trips linking to their topics in class. In the summer term we will be focussing on the United Kingdom as a whole school. We will focus on England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as part of this project and explore the different geographies of these places. We will make curriculum links to history and other subjects to explore this deeply across the school. We will use our knowledge and experiences to help us to explore this further over the term.