



St Antony's Catholic Primary School



## ***St Antony's Geography Curriculum's Implementation***

### **Ensuring the National Curriculum Requirements are being met**

To ensure that standards of teaching and learning in geography are of a high quality, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school and have the Geography Lead undertaking bespoke CPD, mentoring and coaching through the MAT in this area. Geography is taught as part of a termly topic block, focusing on the knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. At St. Antony's we ensure that geography has the same importance given to it as the core subjects, as we feel this is important in enabling and inspiring all children; but especially those with a special love and affinity for this area to gain quality knowledge, skills and understanding to spur them on to the next level of their education. Whether this interest is developed and fostered from one end of Key Stage to the next or from the primary to the secondary and future studies in this curriculum area leading to a career involving geography such as land surveying, cartography, oceanography or other 'real-life' experiences and aspirations.

The Geography curriculum at St. Antony's Catholic Primary School is based upon the Primary National Curriculum in England, which provides a broad framework and outlines the knowledge and skills to be taught in each Key Stage. Teachers plan lessons for their classes using our progression of knowledge and skills document linked to the content to be covered as outlined by the lead based on the National Curriculum requirements. Teachers can use this document to plan their geography lessons, suitable to the age and stage of their pupils linked to the content to be covered in their year group while fully engaging the interests of the pupils and what they want to learn. The progression document ensures the curriculum is covered and the skills/knowledge taught is progressive from year group to year group.

When teaching geography the teachers follow the curriculum outlined by the lead to ensure their learning is engaging, broad and balanced and meets national standards and expectations.

## Learning to think like Geographers

Geography teaching focuses on enabling children to think as geographers. A variety of teaching approaches are used to enable pupils to gain the necessary skills and knowledge in this area of the curriculum inclusive of:

- **Engaging in field work and field trips** to view first hand geographical phenomena such as: soil erosion, fossils, a range of rocks and soils, hills, valleys, fords, lochs, rivers, springs, coast lines sandy( South End/Margate), rocky/ Pebble coasts (Brighton), shale (South Wales)
- **Using Virtual Visits-** to major geographical landmarks and sites globally using google maps
- **Engaging in project based work-**done independently with parental support
- **Engaging in Investigations and Problem Solving through research-** done independently or with support in class/at home on environmental issues such as **global warming** and its impact on the weather globally, **plastic pollution** and its impact on the oceans and rivers here in the UK and around the world

Geography provides excellent opportunities to enhance the learning of more able pupils through the investigations, analysing sources and writing extending pieces. Children showing extensive aptitude in geography are placed on our schools gifted and talented register. These children will be selected for enrichment opportunities such as engaging in special projects or leading as ambassadors on specific areas during Geography Focus Week each year.

At St. Antony's we provide varied opportunities for geography learning inside and outside the classroom. Every year we have a 'Humanities Enrichment Week' where the subject leaders plans fun, engaging activities linked to History and Geography for the children to participate in our 'Parade of Nations' celebrating the many countries and cultures within our school usually held on our school's Feast Day. The enrichment afternoon also offers an opportunity for parents to engage with the school and join in with their children's learning.

Educational visits are another opportunity for the teachers to plan for additional geography learning outside the classroom. At St. Antony's, the children have had many opportunities to experience geography on educational visits. The children have explored the local area including orienteering on the West Ham Park Grounds and conducting river studies in the Docklands as both facilities are close to the school. Local museums also provide an opportunity to further geography learning, as well as trips to local woods, Colchester Castle (linked to British/Roman History) in year 4 as well as using map reading skills during residential trips covered by Year 6 annually involving Orienteering, Caving, Mountain Climbing, Hiking and exploring.