



# St Paul's Catholic Primary School

**'Do Everything with love.'**

## Geography Statement

### INTENT

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, our aim is to deliver a high quality, broad and ambitious Geography curriculum which inspires our pupils and in turn creates curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. We encourage our pupils to learn about our local area of Portsmouth and be proud of our city. In our school, we shape our Geography curriculum to ensure that it is fully inclusive to every child whilst ensuring it provides all pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to be successful. Our aims are to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum: to provide a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum; ensure the progressive development of geographical concepts, knowledge and skills; and for our children to develop a passion for geography.

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, we have developed our Geography curriculum with the intent that our children will gain:

- An excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like, both in Portsmouth and the wider world;
- An understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected;
- A rich diet of geographical vocabulary;
- Excellent fieldwork skills as well as other geographical aptitudes and techniques;
- The ability to reach clear conclusions and explain their findings;
- Comprehensive understanding of how we, as God's creations, have a role in the world as global citizens through empowering Catholic Social Teaching.

In doing so, the pupils at St Paul's Catholic Primary will:

- Be given opportunities to develop their own lines of enquiry through formulating and refining questions;
- Develop the ability to think critically about geographical questions and effectively communicate their ideas;
- Be taught how to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current issues in society and the environment;
- Become independent learners and thinkers;
- Develop their growth mind-set skills through working with others and taking on challenges;
- Be given realistic, unbiased information about the world in the hope tackling stereotypes;
- Leave St Paul's Catholic Primary School as curious, avid lovers of Portsmouth and the wider world.

### IMPLEMENTATION

The subject leader for Geography will monitor, evaluate and review the implementation of the subject throughout the school which is taught every other half term for the duration of 1 hour a week. More importantly, the subject leader will work collaboratively with staff and pupils to ensure the teaching of Geography is to a high standard and that the curriculum is progressive throughout the whole school including Nursery. By using the 2024/25 progression map for our school, the curriculum will be assessed half-termly. This is to ensure coverage in all areas of the Geography curriculum; Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human and Physical Features and Geographical Skills & Field work. The subject leader will also use the progression map to review the curriculum each half term so that appropriate adaptations happen to ensure the curriculum at St Paul's Catholic Primary is the best it can be for our children.

Moreover, staff are able to use the progression map to ensure skills positively develop from one year to the next. With regards to Geography Skills & Field work (whether local or residential), we at St Paul's Catholic Primary recognise it is an essential component of Geography education. It enables pupils to better understand the 'messiness' of 'geographical reality', develop subject knowledge, and gain a range of skills that are difficult to develop in the classroom alone. We ensure fieldwork opportunities are

planned in using trips to our local and residential environment and make use of our surrounding area where possible.

At St. Paul's Catholic Primary, staff are dedicated to delivering high-quality Geography instruction. This commitment is evident in the strategies used to help children retain and build upon their knowledge over time. Each Geography lesson begins with a *Flashback 4*, a dynamic activity that revisits learning from previous lessons, units, year groups, and key stages, ensuring consistent reinforcement of sticky knowledge statements. To further support retention, teachers utilise *sticky knowledge displays* to reinforce learning. The sticky knowledge statements, carefully selected from a progressive document provided by the subject leader, recap key concepts from previous years and lessons. Each unit features three key statements, including one specifically designed to support our SEND pupils, ensuring that Geography is accessible and achievable for all learners.

Geography, where possible, is taught cross – curricular where meaningful, relevant and purposeful links can be made as shown in our school's jigsaw maps. These links will often be made with the Catholic Social Teachings our school follows and core texts that our children study. At St Paul's Catholic Primary, Geography is taught alongside the use of a variety of resources including maps (both paper and digital), atlases and globes.

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, pupils will benefit from:

- **At least one geography enrichment opportunity each year**, including educational trips, guest speakers, and engaging events.
- **Jigsaw maps** that outline the National Curriculum (NC) objectives taught each half term, while also illustrating how the subject connects with the Catholic Social Teaching themes of that term.
- **Explicit instruction of key vocabulary**, aligned with NC objectives and "sticky knowledge" statements to enhance retention and understanding.
- **Occasional and meaningful curriculum-themed home learning tasks**, designed to deepen engagement with geography.
- **Regular use of the local area**, offering hands-on experiences that enrich their learning journey.

### IMPACT

By the end of their primary education at St Paul's Catholic Primary, our learners will have gained a rich body of geographical knowledge and a wide range of transferable skills, which we hope will equip them with the skills and knowledge needed throughout their education and later life. We assess on a regular basis in order to build a rounded picture of each child as a geographer using practical opportunities, quizzes, discussions and presentations. Teachers use this assessment to identify children who have not yet achieved the sticky knowledge statement(s) and to address any additional needs they may have, while also celebrating the achievements of our SEND pupils. This process provides valuable insights, highlighting areas of learning that may require revisiting or adaptation and identifying children who should be targeted for additional support. We aspire for children to leave St Paul's being avid global citizens with a passion to protect God's creation as geographers: debating and discussing geographical issues, reflecting and forming their own opinions on matters such as climate change and natural disasters. We measure our impact based on pupils' confidence to ask and explore questions to further their own geographical knowledge and understanding. Our students will be inquisitive young learners and citizens who choose to understand global environmental issues and seek to make a personal difference in protecting and shaping the world we share.