



Staining CofE Primary School Geography Policy

Our Vision

At Staining Church of England Primary School, we believe Geography is a powerful window into God's world – a subject that inspires children to explore, investigate and appreciate the beauty, diversity and complexity of the planet we share. Through meaningful enquiry, real-life experiences and purposeful fieldwork, we help children become curious geographers who understand how places, people and environments are connected.

Rooted in our Christian vision – **Learn to Wonder, Grow in Wisdom, Shine Like Stars** – our Geography curriculum encourages children to ask thoughtful questions, develop secure knowledge of the world and recognise their responsibility as global citizens. We want every child to understand that Geography is not simply about maps and landscapes, but about understanding how human and physical processes shape life on Earth and how they can make a positive difference.

From the earliest years, children begin to explore their immediate environment through play, observation and outdoor learning. In EYFS, they learn about their school, community and natural surroundings, building the foundations of geographical thinking through curiosity and exploration.



Learn to Wonder

Grow in Wisdom

Shine Like Stars



Purpose of Study

Geography at Staining develops children's understanding of the world, its people, and the natural and human processes that shape it. Through rich experiences, high-quality teaching and meaningful enquiry, children learn to wonder about the world, grow in wisdom through secure knowledge, and shine like stars as confident, responsible global citizens.

Curriculum Alignment

Our Geography curriculum is fully aligned with the whole-school curriculum principles:

Learn to Wonder - Explore the World

Geography provides purposeful opportunities for children to investigate places, environments and cultures. Educational visits, fieldwork, mapwork, outdoor learning and first-hand experiences deepen understanding and broaden horizons.

Grow in Wisdom - Thrive in Life

Children develop geographical knowledge, vocabulary and disciplinary skills such as interpreting maps, analysing data, identifying patterns, and explaining physical and human processes. These skills build confidence, independence and critical thinking.

Shine Like Stars - Make a Difference

Through courageous advocacy, environmental projects and community engagement, children learn that Geography is not just about studying the world – it empowers them to care for it and make positive contributions.

The Staining Entitlement in Geography

Every child at Staining will experience a Geography curriculum that includes:

- Fieldwork in the local area.
- Opportunities to use maps, compasses, digital mapping and aerial photographs.
- Visits to contrasting environments beyond the local community.
- Outdoor learning in all seasons.
- Opportunities to study rivers, coasts, mountains, biomes and settlements.
- Engagement with environmental projects and sustainability initiatives.



- Meaningful comparisons between places locally, nationally and globally.
- Opportunities to present geographical findings to an audience.
- "I Wonder..." learning that encourages curiosity and deep thinking.

These experiences ensure children leave Staining with secure knowledge, strong character and the confidence to thrive in life.

How Knowledge is Built in Geography

Our Geography curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure children learn, secure, remember and apply knowledge over time.

Year 1: Local area studies, seasonal change, weather patterns in the UK and a geographical comparison with Kenya.

Year 2: "We Are Britain," rivers and canals, ice explorers, and seaside environments.

Year 3: Rainforests in South America, coastal environments and geographical elements within the World War II local context.

Year 4: Rivers, mountains and a detailed local study of Blackpool's human and physical geography.

Year 5: Local mapwork, the geography of ancient civilisations such as Egypt and the Maya, and how environments influence settlement.

Year 6: Earth Matters – volcanoes, mountains, rivers, biomes – and geographical elements of Ancient Greece and the Indus Valley.

Learning Knowledge - Learn to Wonder

Children learn Geography through:

- A well-sequenced curriculum that builds knowledge progressively across year groups.
- Strong disciplinary skills: mapwork, fieldwork, data interpretation, enquiry and explanation.
- High-quality teaching supported by effective resources and evidence-informed approaches.
- Rich first-hand experiences, visits, fieldwork and practical opportunities that bring learning to life.



- Adaptive teaching and reasonable adjustments to ensure full access for all learners.
- Opportunities for guided practice, independent enquiry and reflective thinking.
- Encouraging curiosity through our “Learn to Wonder” approach.

Securing Knowledge - Grow in Wisdom

We check children are securing geographical knowledge by:

- Using responsive assessment strategies throughout lessons.
- Employing questioning, discussion, observation, retrieval and low-stakes quizzes.
- Monitoring progress through the planned curriculum and adapting teaching accordingly.
- Providing opportunities for children to demonstrate and apply learning in varied contexts.
- Revisiting key concepts regularly to ensure secure understanding.
- Whole-school monitoring led by SLT, teachers, governors and subject leaders.
- “Let’s Talk About Our Learning” sessions that build confidence in articulating geographical understanding.

Remembering Knowledge - Shine Like Stars

We ensure children remember Geography by:

- Identifying essential knowledge and vocabulary for long-term retention.
- Beginning lessons with purposeful retrieval practice.
- Planning regular review and revisiting of key concepts across units and year groups.
- Helping children make meaningful connections between new and prior learning.
- Using memorable experiences, real-life contexts and practical activities to strengthen retention.
- Encouraging reflection on how knowledge connects and can be applied.



Supporting Knowledge - So Every Child Can Shine Like Stars

If children struggle to secure or remember knowledge, we:

- Use responsive teaching, purposeful questioning and immediate feedback.
- Provide scaffolds, adaptations and reasonable adjustments.
- Work with parents and carers to reinforce learning at home.
- Provide practical experiences, visual supports and concrete resources.
- Maintain high expectations while offering the support needed for success.

Curriculum Drivers in Geography

Vision	Curriculum Driver	Entitlement
Learn to Wonder	Explore the world	Fieldwork, visits, outdoor learning, mapwork, global comparisons
Grow in Wisdom	Thrive in Life	Data interpretation, enquiry skills, vocabulary development, critical thinking
Shine like Stars	Make a difference	Environmental projects, sustainability, community engagement, advocacy

By the time children leave Staining, they will be:

- **Knowledgeable** – with secure understanding of key geographical concepts, places and processes.
- **Curious** – able to ask thoughtful questions, investigate evidence and think deeply.
- **Confident** – able to communicate ideas clearly, take part in discussions and present findings.
- **Responsible** – understanding how their actions impact the environment and how they can care for God's world.
- **Ready to Shine** – equipped with the wisdom, character and skills needed for the next stage of education and life beyond school.