



Geography

Intent

Geography is essentially about understanding the world we live in. It helps to provoke and provide answers to questions about the natural and human aspects of the world. At St Francis Xavier, children are encouraged to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the world, as well as their place in it and to enhance their cultural capital and know about life beyond Balby. The knowledge rich geography curriculum is carefully sequenced and enables children to develop knowledge and skills that are transferrable to other curriculum areas. Geography is an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills. At St Francis Xavier our intent, when teaching geography, is to inspire in children a curiosity and fascination about the world and people within it; to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Implementation

We teach the National Curriculum 2014 and Understanding the World, People, Culture and Communities, in the Early Years. Geography at St Francis Xavier is delivered using the 'ARK Mastery Curriculum' once per week. A progression grid is in place to ensure that Geography is taught in a systematic and progressive way, as well as long term planning. This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children. It is important that children develop the skills of a geographer by fully immersing them in all areas of the subject. The local area is fully utilised to achieve desired outcomes, with opportunities for learning outside the classroom embedded in practise. School trips and fieldwork are provided to give first hand experiences, which enhance children's understanding of the world beyond their locality. In Key Stage 1, pupils begin their journey in geography with a study of the familiar – the local area. They then move outwards to study the United Kingdom and outwards again to gain an overview of the world and the continents and oceans within it. Pupils then study a contrasting location within Kenya, Africa. Through Key Stage 2, pupils develop their understanding of locations, places, processes and people. In Lower Key Stage 2, they use their knowledge of the UK to understand settlements and land use before exploring Europe, North and South America. The exploration of these continents includes identifying the location of and characteristics of a range of the most significant human and physical features as well as the opportunity to explore three places in more depth and compare them to their own locality. Pupils also learn about climate zones, biomes, rivers and rainforests

Impact

By the time children leave St Francis Xavier they will:

- Have an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like.
- Have an excellent understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how much human and physical environments are interrelated.
- Have an extensive base of geographical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Have the ability to reach clear conclusions and develop a reasoned argument to explain findings.
- Have significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity.
- Be highly developed and frequently utilised fieldwork and other geographical skills and techniques.
- Have a passion for and commitment to the subject, and a real sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there.
- Have the ability to express well-balanced opinions, rooted in very good knowledge and understanding about current and contemporary issues in society and the environment.