



ORCHARD
— Community Trust —



Geography Policy

Last Reviewed – November 2025
Review date – November 2026

Introduction

At St. Mark's, we believe that geography inspires curiosity, deepens understanding of the world, and helps children make sense of the complex and diverse places, people, and environments around them. Geography provides opportunities for all pupils to develop a sense of identity, belonging, and responsibility as global citizens.

Our geography curriculum follows the National Curriculum for Geography (2014) and is supported by Oak National Academy planning, which provides clear progression and coherence from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Intent

Our intent is to deliver a high-quality geography curriculum that:

- Inspires curiosity and fascination about the world and its people.
- Broadens pupils' horizons, particularly for those with limited life experiences.
- Develops knowledge of diverse places, people, resources, and natural and human environments.
- Builds a strong understanding of physical and human geographical processes.
- Encourages enquiry, investigation, and critical thinking about environmental and global issues.

In the EYFS, geography begins through the *Understanding the World* area of learning, where children explore their immediate environment, notice features of different places and develop a sense of place and belonging.

Implementation

At St. Mark's, geography is taught through a **knowledge-rich, sequenced curriculum** based on the Oak National Academy's framework.

- **Progression:** Lessons build on prior knowledge, from local studies to national and global comparisons.
- **Skills Development:** Pupils learn to use maps, atlases, and digital tools; interpret data; and carry out fieldwork.
- **Enquiry Approach:** Children investigate questions, make observations, and draw conclusions about the world around them.
- **Fieldwork:** Practical experiences in the school grounds, local area, and beyond help pupils apply geographical skills in real contexts.
- **Cross-Curricular Links:** Geography is enriched through links with history, science, English, and computing.

In EYFS, Children develop early geographical awareness through play, stories, observations, and hands-on exploration of their surroundings.

SEND and Inclusion

We ensure all pupils, including those with SEND, can access and achieve in geography by:

- Using multisensory, visual, and practical learning approaches.
- Differentiating tasks and providing scaffolds or adapted resources.
- Using assistive technology, simplified maps, or visual vocabulary supports.
- Offering alternative ways to record learning, such as photographs, drawings, or oral explanations.

Cultural Capital

We build cultural capital through experiences that broaden children's understanding of the world – such as fieldwork, trips, visitors, and virtual exploration of global locations. Pupils are encouraged to value diversity and appreciate their place in a global community.

SMSC Development

Geography contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth by:

- **Spiritual:** Inspiring awe and wonder at the beauty of the natural world.
- **Moral:** Encouraging care for the environment and discussion of global issues such as sustainability and fairness.
- **Social:** Promoting teamwork and collaboration during investigations and fieldwork.
- **Cultural:** Exploring different communities, traditions, and ways of life across the world.

Impact

By the end of their primary journey, pupils at St. Mark's will:

- Have secure locational and place knowledge of the UK and the wider world.
- Understand key human and physical geographical processes.
- Be able to use geographical vocabulary, maps, and enquiry skills confidently.
- Demonstrate respect and responsibility towards people and environments.
- Be equipped with the curiosity and knowledge needed to engage as informed global citizens.

Impact is measured through:

- Pupil voice and discussions.
- Evidence in books and EYFS floor books.
- Assessment against key learning objectives.
- Teacher observations and end-of-unit reviews.

Monitoring and Review

The geography lead monitors teaching, learning, and outcomes through planning reviews, pupil work scrutiny, learning walks, and discussions with pupils and staff. This ensures consistent high standards and continuous improvement.

Geography Subject Lead: Katie Colclough

Date: November 2025

Next Review: November 2026